

**Chapter 246-272A WAC**

**ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEMS**

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**WAC**

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43.70.250. WSR 06-20-078, § 246-272A-990, filed  
10/2/06, effective 1/1/07. Statutory Authority: RCW  
43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-990, filed  
7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.] Repealed by WSR 10-16-  
108, filed 8/2/10, effective 9/2/10. Statutory  
Authority: RCW 43.70.110, 43.70.250, 43.20B.020, and

2010 c 37. Later promulgation, see chapter 246-272

WAC.

#### **PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION**

##### **WAC 246-272A-0001 Purpose, objectives, and authority. (1)**

The purpose of this chapter is to protect the public health by minimizing:

(a) The potential for public exposure to sewage from on-site sewage systems; and

(b) Adverse effects to public health that discharges from OSS may have on ground and surface waters.

(2) This chapter regulates the location, design, installation, operation, maintenance, and monitoring of OSS to:

(a) Achieve effective long-term sewage treatment and effluent dispersal; and

(b) Limit the discharge of contaminants to waters of the state.

(3) The state board of health is authorized under RCW 43.20.050 to establish minimum requirements for the department of health and local boards of health, and consistent with RCW

43.70.310 integrating the preservation of public health with protection of the environment in order to endorse policies in common.

(4) This chapter is intended to coordinate with other applicable statutes and rules for the design of OSS under chapter 18.210 RCW and chapter 196-33 WAC.

(5) This chapter is intended to coordinate with other applicable statutes for land use planning under chapters 36.70 and 36.70A RCW, and the statutes for subdivision of land under chapter 58.17 RCW.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0001, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

**WAC 246-272A-0005 Administration.** The local health officers and the department shall administer this chapter under the authority and requirements of chapters 70.05, 70.08, 70.118, 70.46, and 43.70 RCW. RCW 70.05.060(7) authorizes local health officers to charge fees for the administration of this chapter. [Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0005, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

**WAC 246-272A-0010 Definitions.** (1) Acronyms used in this chapter:

**"ANSI"** means American National Standards Institute.

**"BOD"** means biochemical oxygen demand, typically expressed in mg/L.

**"CBOD<sub>5</sub>"** means carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand, typically expressed in mg/L.

**"DL"** means disinfection level.

**"DS&G"** means departmental standards and guidance.

**"EPA"** means United States Environmental Protection Agency.

**"FC"** means fecal coliform, typically expressed in number colonies/100 ml.

**"LOSS"** means a large on-site sewage system (see chapter 246-272B WAC).

**"NSF"** means National Sanitation Foundation International.

**"O&G"** means oil and grease, a component of sewage typically originating from food stuffs (animal fats or vegetable oils) or consisting of compounds of alcohol or glycerol with fatty acids (soaps and lotions). Typically expressed in mg/L.

**"OSS"** means on-site sewage system.

**"SSAS"** means a subsurface soil absorption system.

**"TAG"** means the technical advisory group established in WAC 246-272A-0400.

**"TN"** means total nitrogen, typically expressed in mg/L.

**"TSS"** means total suspended solids, a measure of all suspended solids in a liquid, typically expressed in mg/L.

(2) Definitions used in this chapter:

**"Additive"** means a commercial product added to an OSS intended to affect the performance or aesthetics of an OSS.

**"Approved"** means a written statement of acceptability issued by the local health officer or the department.

**"Bed"** means a soil dispersal component consisting of an excavation with a width greater than three feet.

**"Black water"** means any waste from toilets or urinals.

**"Building drain"** means that part of the lowest piping of a building's drainage system that receives the discharge of sewage from pipes inside the walls of the building and conveys it to the building sewer beginning two feet outside the building wall.

**"Building sewer"** means that part of the horizontal piping of a drainage system extending from the building drain, which collects sewage from all the drainage pipes inside a building,

to an OSS. It begins two feet outside the building wall and conveys sewage from the building drain to the remaining portions of the OSS.

**"Cesspool"** means a pit receiving untreated sewage and allowing the liquid to seep into the surrounding soil or rock.

**"Conforming system"** means any OSS or component, meeting any of the following criteria:

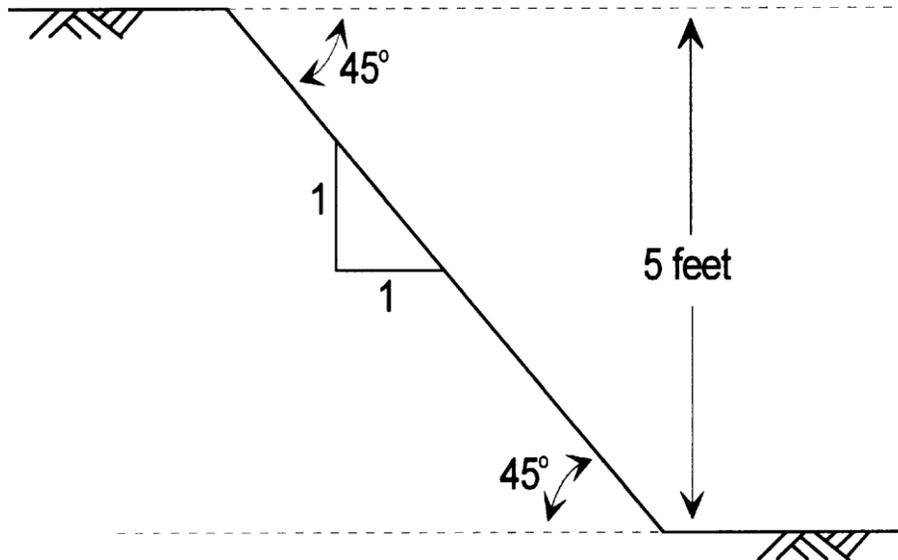
(a) In full compliance with new construction requirements under this chapter; or

(b) Approved, installed and operating in accordance with requirements of previous editions of this chapter; or

(c) Permitted by the waiver process under WAC 246-272A-0420 that ensures public health protection by higher treatment performance or other methods.

**"Cover material"** means soil placed over a soil dispersal component composed predominately of mineral material with no greater than ten percent organic content. Cover material may contain an organic surface layer for establishing a vegetative landscape to reduce soil erosion.

**"Cuts and/or banks"** means any naturally occurring or artificially formed slope greater than one hundred percent (forty-five degrees) and extending vertically at least five feet from the toe of the slope to the top of the slope as follows:



**"Department"** means the Washington state department of health.

**"Designer"** means a person who matches site and soil characteristics with appropriate on-site sewage technology. Throughout this chapter this term applies to both on-site sewage treatment system designers licensed under chapter 18.210 RCW and professional engineers licensed under chapter 18.43 RCW.

**"Design flow"** means the maximum volume of sewage a residence, structure, or other facility is estimated to generate

in a twenty-four-hour period. It incorporates both an operating capacity and a surge capacity for the system during periodic heavy use events. The sizing and design of the OSS components are based on the design flow.

**"Development"** means the creation of a residence, structure, facility, subdivision, site, area, or similar activity resulting in the production of sewage.

**"Disinfection"** means the process of destroying pathogenic microorganisms in sewage through the application of ultraviolet light, chlorination, or ozonation.

**"Distribution technology"** means any arrangement of equipment and/or materials that distributes sewage within an OSS.

**"Drainage area"** means a land feature that directs water from rain, snowmelt, irrigation or collected stormwater that is not absorbed into the ground. The water flows over the ground surface. Examples of the landform features that direct water are gentle or steep hillsides or banks, mountains, glacial till, bedrock, or other restrictive area.

" **Drainfield**" see subsurface soil absorption system (SSAS) and soil dispersal component.

"**Drainrock**" means clean washed gravel or crushed rock ranging in size from three-quarters inch to two and one-half inches, and containing no more than two percent by weight passing a US No. 8 sieve and no more than one percent by weight passing a US No. 200 sieve.

"**E. coli**" means Escherichia coli bacteria. Counts of these organisms are typically used to indicate potential contamination from sewage or to describe a level of needed disinfection, generally expressed as colonies per 100 ml.

"**Effluent**" means liquid discharged from a septic tank or other OSS component.

"**Expanding clay**" means a clay soil with the mineralogy of clay particles, such as those found in the Montmorillonite/Smectite Group, which causes the clay particles to expand when they absorb water, closing the soil pores, and contract when they dry out.

"**Expansion**" means a change in a residence, facility, site, or use that:

(a) Causes the sewage quantity or quality to exceed the existing design flow of the on-site system, for example, when a residence is increased from two to three bedrooms or a change in use from an office to a restaurant; or

(b) Reduces the treatment or dispersal capability of the existing OSS or the reserve area, for example, when a building is placed over a reserve area.

**"Extremely gravelly"** means soil with sixty percent or more, but less than ninety percent rock fragments by volume.

**"Failure"** means a condition of an OSS or component that threatens the public health by inadequately treating sewage or by creating a potential for direct or indirect contact between sewage and the public. Examples of failure include:

(a) Sewage on the surface of the ground;

(b) Sewage backing up into a structure caused by slow soil absorption of septic tank effluent;

(c) Sewage leaking from a sewage tank or collection system;

(d) Cesspools or seepage pits where evidence of groundwater or surface water quality degradation exists;

(e) Inadequately treated effluent contaminating groundwater or surface water; or

(f) Noncompliance with standards stipulated on the permit.

**"Fecal coliform"** means bacteria common to the digestive systems of warm-blooded animals that are cultured in standard tests. Counts of these organisms are typically used to indicate potential contamination from sewage or to describe a level of needed disinfection. Generally expressed as colonies per 100 ml.

**"Fill"** means 1. Unconsolidated material that meets specific textural criteria and is used as part of a dispersal component; 2. Unconsolidated material used to change grade or to enhance surface water diversion; or 3. Any other human-transported unconsolidated soil material.

**"Flood plain"** means an area that is low-lying and adjacent to a stream or river that is covered by water during a flood.

**"Gravelly"** means soils with fifteen percent or more, but less than thirty-five percent rock fragments by volume.

**"Greywater"** means sewage from bathtubs, showers, bathroom sinks, washing machines, dishwashers, and kitchen sinks. It

includes sewage from any source in a residence or structure that has not come into contact with toilet wastes.

**"Groundwater"** means subsurface water occupying the zone of saturated soil, permanently, seasonally, or as the result of the tides. Indications of groundwater may include:

(a) Water seeping into or standing in an open excavation from the soil surrounding the excavation or monitoring ports.

(b) Spots or blotches of different color or shades of color interspersed with a dominant color in soil, caused by reduction and oxidation of iron. These color patterns are redoximorphic features, commonly referred to as mottling. Redoximorphic features often indicate the intermittent presence of groundwater and may indicate poor aeration and impeded drainage. Also see "water table."

**"Holding tank sewage system"** means an OSS which incorporates a sewage tank without a discharge outlet, the services of a sewage pumper/hauler, and the offsite treatment and disposal for the sewage generated.

**"Hydraulic loading rate"** means the amount of effluent applied to a given treatment step, in this chapter expressed as gallons per square foot per day (gal/sq.ft./day).

**"Industrial wastewater"** means the water or liquid carried waste from an industrial process. These wastes may result from any process or activity of industry, manufacture, trade or business, from the development of any natural resource, or from animal operations such as feedlots, poultry houses, or dairies. The term includes contaminated stormwater and leachate from solid waste facilities.

**"Infiltrative surface"** means the surface within a treatment component or soil dispersal component to which effluent is applied and through which effluent moves into original, undisturbed soil or other porous treatment media.

**"Installer"** means a person approved by the local health officer to install OSS or components.

**"Local health officer"** means the health officer of the city, county, or city-county health department or district within the state of Washington, or a representative authorized

by and under the direct supervision of the local health officer, as defined in chapter 70.05 RCW.

**"Maintenance"** means the actions necessary to keep the OSS components functioning as designed.

**"Malfunction"** means a system deficiency that can be corrected by means of a minor repair.

**"Massive structure"** means the condition of a soil layer in which the layer appears as a coherent or solid mass not separated into peds of any kind.

**"Minor repair"** means the repair or replacement of any of the following existing damaged or malfunctioning OSS components: fifteen (15) feet or less of SSAS piping or conveyance; control panels; building sewers; any other portions of tightline in the OSS; risers and riser lids; sewage tank baffles; effluent filters; sewage tank pumps; pump control floats; and OSS inspection boxes and ports where a sewage tank, treatment component, or soil dispersal component does not need to be replaced.

**"Moderate structure"** means well-formed distinct peds evident in undisturbed soil. When disturbed, soil material parts

into a mixture of whole peds, broken peds, and material that is not in peds.

**"Modification"** means the alteration of an existing OSS component that does not result in an expansion of the system. A modification is not a repair.

**"Monitoring"** means periodic or continuous checking of an OSS, which is performed by observations and measurements, to determine if the system is functioning as intended and if system maintenance is needed. Monitoring also includes maintaining accurate records that document monitoring activities.

**"On-site sewage system" (OSS)** means an integrated system of components, located on or nearby the property it serves, that conveys, stores, treats, and/or provides subsurface soil treatment and dispersal of sewage. It consists of a collection system, a treatment component or treatment component sequence, and a soil dispersal component. An OSS also refers to a holding tank sewage system or other system that does not have a soil dispersal component. For purposes of this chapter, the term "on-site sewage system" does not include any system regulated by a water quality discharge permit issued under chapter 90.48 RCW.

**"Operating capacity"** means the average daily volume of sewage an OSS can treat and disperse on a sustained basis. The operating capacity, which is lower than the design flow, is an integral part of the design and is used as an index in OSS monitoring.

**"Ordinary high-water mark"** means the mark on lakes, streams, springs, and tidal waters, found by examining the beds and banks and ascertaining where the presence and action of waters are so common and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to mark upon the soil a character distinct from that of the abutting upland with respect to vegetation, as that condition exists on the effective date of this chapter, or as it may naturally change thereafter. The following definitions apply where the ordinary high-water mark cannot be found:

(a) The ordinary high-water mark adjoining marine water is the elevation at mean higher high tide; and

(b) The ordinary high-water mark adjoining freshwater is the line of mean high water.

**"Ped"** means a unit of soil structure such as blocks, column, granule, plate or prism formed by natural processes.

**"Person"** means any individual, corporation, company, association, society, firm, partnership, joint stock company, or any governmental agency, or the authorized agents of these entities.

**"Planned unit development"** means a subdivision characterized by a unified site design, clustered residential units and/or commercial units, and areas of common open space.

**"Platy structure"** means soil that contains flat pedes that lie horizontally and often overlap. This type of structure will impede the vertical movement of water.

**"Pressure distribution"** means a system of small diameter pipes equally distributing effluent throughout a OSS, as described in the department's most current *"Departmental Standards and Guidance for Pressure Distribution Systems,"* . A subsurface drip system may be used wherever the chapter requires pressure distribution.

**"Professional engineer"** means a person who is currently licensed as an engineer under the provisions of chapter 18.43 RCW.

**"Proprietary product"** means a sewage treatment and distribution technology, method, or material subject to a patent or trademark.

**"Public domain technology"** means a sewage treatment and distribution technology, method, or material not subject to a patent or trademark.

**"Public sewer system"** means a sewerage system:

(a) Owned or operated by a city, town, municipal corporation, county, or other approved ownership consisting of a collection system and necessary trunks, pumping facilities and a means of final treatment and disposal; and

(b) Approved by or under permit from the department of ecology, the department of health and/or a local health officer.

**"Pump chamber"** means a watertight receptacle placed after a septic tank or other treatment facility that contains the required controls and alarms to convey sewage effluent to a dispersal component.

**"Pumper"** means a person approved by the local health officer to remove and transport sewage or septage from an OSS.

**"Record drawing"** means an accurate graphic and written record of the location and features of the OSS that are needed to properly monitor, operate, and maintain that system.

**"Remediation"** means any action, approved by the local health officer, to restore the function of an OSS dispersal component to non-failure status. Remediation is not a minor repair, repair, additive, or treatment or distribution technology that allows it to meet a specific treatment level.

**"Repair"** means the relocation, replacement or reconstruction of an OSS, or components thereof, that have failed or determined to be deficient in order to restore the system to a functioning state that protects public health.

**"Reserve area"** means an area of land approved for the installation of a conforming system that is protected and maintained for replacement of the OSS upon its failure.

**"Residential sewage"** means sewage having the constituency and quality typical of sewage from a single family residence. To be considered single family residential septic tank effluent quality, the levels of CBOD<sub>5</sub>, TSS and O&G must not exceed the following: CBOD<sub>5</sub> - 228 mg/L, TSS - 80 mg/L, and O&G - 20 mg/L.

**"Restrictive layer"** means a stratum impeding the vertical movement of water, air, and growth of plant roots, such as hardpan, claypan, fragipan, caliche, some compacted soils, bedrock and unstructured clay soils.

**"Rock fragment"** means rock or mineral fragments having a diameter of two millimeters or more; for example, gravel, cobbles, stones, and boulders.

**"Seepage pit"** means an excavation more than three feet deep where the sidewall of the excavation is designed to dispose of septic tank effluent. Seepage pits may also be called "dry wells."

**"Septage"** means the mixture of solid wastes, scum, sludge, and liquids pumped from within septic tanks, pump chambers, holding tanks, and other OSS components.

**"Septic tank"** means a watertight treatment receptacle receiving the discharge of sewage from a building sewer or sewers, designed and constructed to permit separation of settleable and floating solids from the liquid, detention and anaerobic digestion of the organic matter, prior to discharge of the liquid.

**"Septic system"** see on-site sewage system.

**"Sewage"** means any urine, feces, and the water carrying human wastes, including kitchen, bath, and laundry wastes from residences, buildings, industrial establishments or other places.

**"Sewage quality"** means contents in sewage that include:

(a) CBOD<sub>5</sub>, TSS, and O&G;

(b) Other parameters that can adversely affect treatment.

Examples include pH, temperature, and dissolved oxygen;

(c) Other constituents that create concerns due to specific site sensitivity. Examples include fecal coliform and nitrogen.

**"Sewage tank"** means a prefabricated or cast-in-place septic tank, pump tank/dosing chamber, holding tank, grease interceptor, recirculating filter tank or any other tanks as they relate to on-site sewage systems including tanks for use with proprietary products.

**"Soil dispersal component"** means a technology that releases effluent from a treatment component into the soil for dispersal, final treatment and recycling.

**"Soil log"** means a detailed description of soil characteristics providing information on the soil's capacity to act as an acceptable treatment and dispersal medium for sewage.

**"Soil scientist"** means a person certified by the American Society of Agronomy as a Certified Professional Soil Scientist.

**"Soil type"** means one of seven numerical classifications of fine earth particles and rock fragments as described in WAC 246-272A-0220 (2) (e).

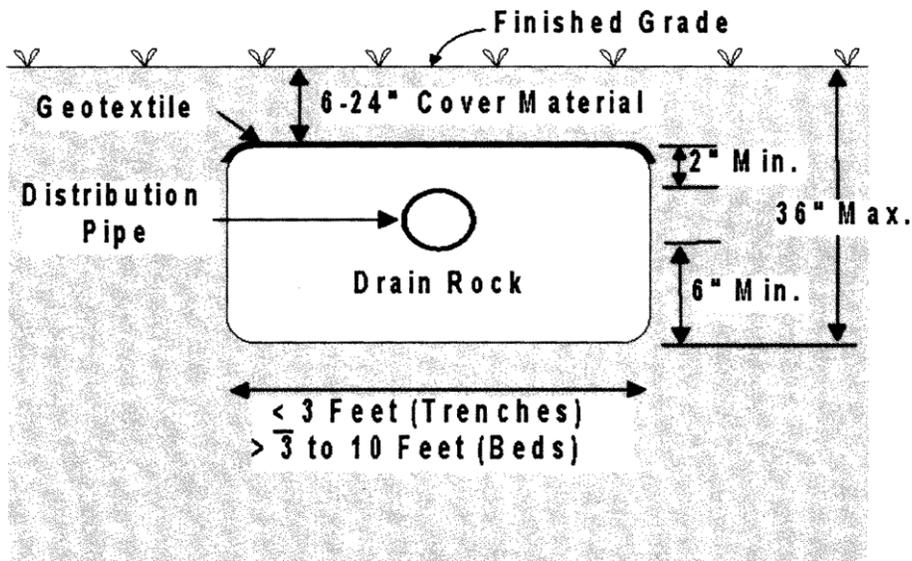
**"Standard methods"** means the *23<sup>rd</sup> Edition of Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, prepared and published jointly by the American Public Health Association, the American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Federation.

**"Strong structure"** means peds are distinct in undisturbed soil. They separate cleanly when soil is disturbed, and the soil material separates mainly into whole peds when removed.

**"Subdivision"** means a division of land or creation of lots or parcels, described under chapter 58.17 RCW, including both long and short subdivisions, planned unit developments, and mobile home parks.

**"Subsurface drip system"** means an efficient pressurized wastewater distribution system that can deliver small, precise doses of effluent to soil surrounding the drip distribution piping (called dripline) as described in the department's *"Departmental Standards and Guidance for Subsurface Drip Systems."*

**"Subsurface soil absorption system" (SSAS)** means a soil dispersal component of trenches or beds containing either a distribution pipe within a layer of drainrock covered with a geotextile, or an approved gravelless distribution technology, designed and installed in suitable, original, undisturbed, unsaturated soil providing at least minimal vertical separation as established in this chapter, with either gravity or pressure distribution of the treatment component effluent.



"**Surface water**" means any body of water, whether fresh or marine, flowing or contained in natural or artificial unlined depressions for significant periods of the year, including natural and artificial lakes, ponds, springs, rivers, streams, swamps, marshes, irrigation canals and tidal waters.

"**Timed dosing**" means delivery of discrete volumes of sewage at prescribed time intervals.

"**Treatment component**" means a technology that treats sewage in preparation for further treatment and/or dispersal into the soil environment. Some treatment components, such as mound systems, incorporate a soil dispersal component in lieu of separate treatment and soil dispersal components.

**"Treatment component sequence"** means any series of treatment components that discharges treated sewage to the soil dispersal component.

**"Treatment level"** means one of the following levels (A, B, C, DL1, DL2, DL3, E, & N) used in these rules to:

(a) Identify treatment component performance demonstrated through requirements specified in WAC 246-272A-0110; and

(b) Match site conditions of vertical separation and soil type with treatment components.

**"Trench"** means a soil dispersal component consisting of an excavation with a width of three feet or less.

**"Unit volume of sewage"** means:

(a) Flow from a single-family residence;

(b) Flow from a mobile home site in a mobile home park; or

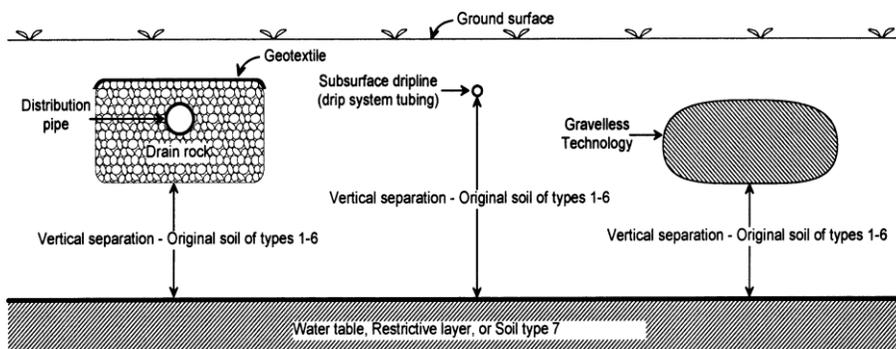
(c) Four hundred fifty gallons of sewage per day where the proposed development is not single-family residences or a mobile home park.

**"Unknown system"** means an OSS without a record of approval by the local health jurisdiction.

**"Unpermitted sewage discharge"** means the discharge of sewage or treated effluent associated with an OSS or other sewage disposal that began or was installed after 1974 without the approval of any local permitting authorities.

**"Usable land area"** means the minimum land area required per development which is suitable for OSS. This area includes satisfactory soil conditions, vertical separation and horizontal separation(s). This area also includes an area free of all physical restrictions.

**"Vertical separation"** means the depth of suitable, original, undisturbed, unsaturated soil of soil types 1-6 between the bottom infiltrative surface of a soil dispersal component and the highest seasonal water table, a restrictive layer, or soil type 7 as illustrated below by the profile drawing of subsurface soil absorption systems:



**"Very gravelly"** means soil containing thirty-five percent or more, but less than sixty percent rock fragments by volume.

**"Water table"** means the upper surface of the groundwater, whether permanent or seasonal. Also see "groundwater."

**"Water supply protection zone"** means the land area around each existing or proposed well site to protect it from contamination.

**"Well"** means any excavation that is constructed when the intended use of the well is for the location, diversion, artificial recharge, observation, monitoring, dewatering or withdrawal of groundwater for agricultural, municipal, industrial, domestic, or commercial use. Excluded are:

(a) A temporary observation or monitoring well used to determine the depth to a water table for locating an OSS;

(b) An observation or monitoring well used to measure the effect of an OSS on a water table; and

(c) An interceptor or curtain drain constructed to lower a water table.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0010, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

**WAC 246-272A-0013 Local Regulation.** (1) Until such time as the local board of health decides to adopt its own rules, the local health officer shall enforce this chapter. Local boards of health may adopt and enforce local rules and regulations governing on-site sewage systems when the local regulations are:

(a) Consistent with, and at least as stringent as, this chapter; and

(b) Approved by the department prior to the effective date of local regulations.

(2) A local board of health shall apply for departmental approval of local regulations by initiating the following procedure:

(a) The local board shall submit the proposed local regulations to the department; and

(b) Within ninety days of receipt, the department shall:

(i) Approve the regulation in writing; or

(ii) Signify automatic tacit approval with the local regulations and permitting local implementation by failing to act; or

(iii) Deny approval of the regulations. If the department determines local regulations are not consistent with this

chapter, the department shall provide specific reasons for denial.

(3) Upon receipt of departmental approval or after ninety days without notification, whichever comes first, the local board may implement adopted regulations. The local board shall provide a copy of the adopted local regulations to the department.

(4) If the department denies approval of local regulations, the local board of health may:

(a) Resubmit revised regulations for departmental consideration; or

(b) Submit a written request for a review of the departmental denial within one hundred twenty days from the date the local board of health receives the written reasons for the denial.

(5) Upon receipt of written request for review of the departmental denial, the department shall:

(a) Acknowledge the receipt of the request in writing; and

(b) Form a mutually acceptable advisory panel consisting of:

(i) One departmental employee;

(ii) One employee from a local health jurisdiction other than that which requested the review; and

(iii) One member of the technical advisory group.

(6) If good faith efforts to reach agreement are unsuccessful, the local board of health may appeal the denial to the Washington state board of health for resolution.

(7) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit the adoption and enforcement of more stringent regulations by local health departments.

(8) The local health officer may address water conservation and include options for the nonpotable reuse of greywater. Any treatment and dispersal of greywater outside the structure must comply with this chapter.

**WAC 246-272A-0015 Local management plans.** (1) One year after the effective date of the rule, the local health officer of each health jurisdiction shall develop or revise a written management plan for all OSS within the jurisdiction. At a minimum, the plan must specify how the local health jurisdiction will:

(a) Progressively develop and maintain an inventory including the number and location of all OSS in operation within the jurisdiction;

(b) Identify any of the following areas where OSS could pose an increased public health risk, if applicable:

(i) Shellfish protection districts or shellfish growing areas;

(ii) Sole source aquifers designated by the EPA;

(iii) Areas in which aquifers used for potable water as designated under the Washington State Growth Management Act, chapter 36.70A RCW are critically impacted by recharge;

(iv) Designated wellhead protection areas for Group A public water systems;

(v) Up-gradient areas directly influencing water recreation facilities designated for swimming in natural waters with artificial boundaries within the waters as described by the Water Recreation Facilities Act, chapter 70.90 RCW;

(vi) Areas designated by the department of ecology as special protection areas under WAC 173-200-090, Water quality standards for groundwaters of the state of Washington;

(vii) Wetland areas under production of crops for human consumption;

(viii) Frequently flooded areas including areas delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and or as designated under the Washington State Growth Management Act, chapter 36.70A RCW;

(ix) Areas where nitrogen has been identified as a contaminant of concern; and

(x) Other areas designated by the local health officer.

(c) Identify operation, maintenance and monitoring requirements commensurate with risks posed by OSS within the geographic areas identified in (b) of this subsection;

(d) Educate OSS owners regarding their responsibilities under the local management plan and provide operation and maintenance information for all types of systems in use within the jurisdiction;

(e) Remind and encourage owners to complete the operation and maintenance inspections required by WAC 246-272A-0270;

(f) Maintain records required under this chapter, including all operation and maintenance activities as identified;

(g) Enforce OSS owner permit application, operation, monitoring and maintenance and failure repair requirements defined in WAC 246-272A-0200(1), 246-272A-0260, 246-272A-0270, 246-272A-0275, and 246-272A-0280 (1) and (2);

(h) Describe the capacity of the local health jurisdiction to adequately fund and implement the local OSS plan, including a summary of program expenditures by activity, source of funds, and a strategy to fill any funding gaps;

(i) Ensure that it was developed to coordinate with the comprehensive land use plan of the entities governing development in the health officer's jurisdiction; and

(j) Ensure opportunity for public input into development of the plan.

(2) After local board of health approval following a public hearing, the local health officer shall:

(a) Submit a copy of the plan for departmental review;

(b) Review the plan and update as necessary at least once every five years from the date of local board of health plan approval;

(c) Implement the plan and report annually to the department in a format specified by the department. Annual reports should include any of the following data elements, if applicable: type, age, location, status of compliance with inspections required by WAC 246-272A-0270, unknown OSS, number of inspections, number of property transfer inspections, or other elements deemed necessary; and

(d) Supply a copy of the plan to the entities responsible for land use planning and development regulations in the health officer's jurisdiction.

(3) The department shall review the plan to ensure the elements in subsection (1) of this section have been addressed and provide any comments in writing to the local board of health. Any revisions made by the local health officer to the OSS plan required in subsection (2) of this section shall be submitted for department review.

(4) In order to implement the plan described in subsections (1) and (2) of this section, the local health officer shall require the owner of the OSS to:

(a) Have an inspection, as defined by WAC 246-272A-0260, of the OSS at the time of property transfer by an inspector authorized by the local health officer. The local health officer may verify the results of the property transfer inspection for compliance with WAC 246-272A-0260. The local health officer may waive the requirement for a property transfer inspection if the OSS is in compliance with inspection requirements in WAC 246-272A-0270; or

(b) Have an inspection, as defined by WAC 246-272A-0260, of advanced treatment systems with proprietary products done at the time of property transfer by an inspector approved by the local health officer per the product manufacturer recommendations. The local health officer may verify the results of this inspection for compliance with section WAC 246-272A-0260 and the product manufacturer recommendations. The local health officer may waive the requirement for a property transfer inspection if the OSS is in compliance with inspection requirements in WAC 246-272A-0270.

(5) The department shall maintain and update guidance including best management practices and provide technical

assistance to assist local health jurisdictions in plan development.

(6) In the plan required in subsection (1) of this section, the local health officer may address water conservation and include options for the nonpotable reuse of greywater. Any treatment and dispersal of greywater outside the structure must comply with this chapter.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0015, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

#### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

**WAC 246-272A-0020 Applicability.** (1) The local health officer:

(a) Shall apply this chapter to OSS treating sewage and dispersing effluent from residential sources with design flows up to three thousand five hundred gallons per day;

(b) May apply this chapter to OSS for nonresidential sources of sewage if treatment, siting, design, installation, and operation and maintenance measures provide treatment and effluent dispersal equal to that required of residential sources.

(c) May not apply this chapter to industrial wastewater.

(2) The department shall apply this chapter for the registration of proprietary treatment and distribution products.

(3) A valid sewage system design approval, or installation permit issued prior to the effective date of these regulations:

(a) Shall be acted upon in accordance with regulations in force at the time of issuance;

(b) Shall have a maximum validity period of five years from the date of issuance or remain valid for an additional year beyond the effective date of these regulations, whichever has the most lenient expiration date; and

(c) May be modified to include additional requirements if the health officer determines that a serious threat to public health exists.

(4) This chapter does not apply to facilities regulated as reclaimed water use under chapter 90.46 RCW.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0020, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

**WAC 246-272A-0025 Connection to public sewer system. (1)**

When adequate public sewer services are available within two

hundred feet either from where the existing building drain of the structure connects to the existing building sewer, or in cases where no building drain exists, within two hundred feet from where the sewer line begins, as measured along the usual or most feasible route of access, the local health officer, upon the failure of an existing OSS may:

(a) Require hook-up to a public sewer system if the sewer utility allows the sewer connection; or

(b) Permit the repair or replacement of the OSS only if a conforming system, not to include systems in compliance with Table IX, can be designed and installed.

(2) The owner of a structure served by a system meeting the requirements of Table IX of this chapter shall abandon the OSS according to the requirements specified in WAC 246-272A-0300, and connect the structure to a public sewer system when:

(a) Connection is deemed necessary to protect public health by the local health officer;

(b) An adequate public sewer becomes available within two hundred feet from the existing building drain of the structure, or in cases where no building drain exists, within two hundred

feet from where the sewer line begins, as measured along the usual or most economically feasible route of access; and

(c) The sewer utility allows the sewer connection.

(3) Local boards of health may require a new development to connect to a public sewer system to protect public health.

(4) Local boards of health shall require new development or a development with a failing system to connect to a public sewer system if it is required by the comprehensive land use plan or development regulations.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0025, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

#### **SEWAGE PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGIES**

**WAC 246-272A-0100 Sewage technologies.** (1) The department shall develop DS&G for local health officers to permit different types of sewage treatment and distribution technologies including the following four broad categories:

(a) Public domain treatment technologies as identified in DS&G (e.g., sand filters);

(b) Proprietary treatment products following the product registration process as described in this chapter and as

identified in DS&G (e.g., aerobic treatment systems and packed bed filters);

(c) Public domain distribution technologies as described in this chapter and as identified in DS&G (e.g., gravel or generic gravel substitutes, gravity and pressure distribution methods and materials); and

(d) Proprietary distribution products following product registration process as described in this chapter and as identified in DS&G (e.g., subsurface dripline products or gravelless distribution products).

(2) All types of sewage technologies must either be registered for use as described in this chapter, have standards for use as described or referenced in this chapter, or have DS&G before the local health officer may permit them. DS&G shall at a minimum include:

- (a) Application;
- (b) Design;
- (c) Installation;
- (d) Operation, monitoring and maintenance;
- (e) Performance expectations; and

(f) Sources of information.

(3) The department may remove, restrict or suspend a product's approval for use based on failure to meet required standards or conditions of approval.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0100, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

**WAC 246-272A-0110 Proprietary treatment products—**

**Certification and registration.** (1) Manufacturers shall register their proprietary treatment products with the department before the local health officer may permit their use.

(2) To qualify for product registration, manufacturers desiring to sell or distribute proprietary treatment products in Washington state shall:

(a) Verify product performance through testing using the testing protocol established in Table I and register their product with the department using the process described in WAC 246-272A-0120;

(b) Report product test results of influent and effluent sampling obtained throughout the testing period (including

normal and stress loading phases) for evaluation of constituent reduction according to Table II;

(c) Demonstrate product performance according to Table III. All thirty-day averages and geometric means obtained throughout the test period must meet the identified threshold values to qualify for registration at that threshold level; and

(d) Verify bacteriological reduction according to WAC 246-272A-0130 for product registration utilizing disinfection levels DL1, DL2 and DL3.

(3) Manufacturers verifying product performance through testing according to the following standards or protocols shall have product testing conducted by a testing facility accredited by ANSI:

(a) NSF/ANSI Standard 40:Residential Wastewater Treatment Systems;

(b) NSF/ANSI Standard 41: Non-Liquid Saturated Treatment Systems;

(c) NSF Protocol P157 Electrical Incinerating Toilets - Health and Sanitation;

(d) NSF/ANSI Standard 245: Residential Wastewater Treatment Systems - Nitrogen Reduction; or

(e) NSF/ANSI Standard 385: Residential Wastewater Treatment Systems - Disinfection Mechanics for bacteriological reduction described in WAC 246-272A-0130.

(4) Manufacturers verifying product performance through testing according to EPA/NSF - Protocol for the Verification of Wastewater Treatment Technologies shall have product testing conducted by a testing facility meeting the requirements established by the Testing Organization and Verification Organization, consistent with the test protocol and plan.(5) Treatment levels established in Table III of this section are intended to establish treatment product performance in a product testing setting under established protocols by qualified testing entities. Field compliance standards for proprietary treatment products shall follow the requirements in WAC 246-272A-0120(5).

TABLE I

<b>Testing Requirements for Proprietary Treatment Products</b>	
<b>Treatment Component/Sequence Category</b>	<b>Required Testing Protocol</b>
<b>Category 1</b> Designed to treat sewage typical of a residential source with septic tank effluent quality parameters anticipated to be equal to or less than treatment level E.	NSF/ANSI Standard 40: Residential Wastewater Treatment Systems (versions dated between January 2009 and the effective date of these rules)
<b>Category 2</b> Designed to treat sewage with sewage quality parameters anticipated to be greater than treatment level E.  (Such as at restaurants, grocery stores, mini-marts, group homes, medical clinics, atypical residences, etc.)	EPA/NSF Protocol for the Verification of Wastewater Treatment Technologies/ EPA Environmental Technology Verification (April 2001)
<b>Category 3</b> Black water component of residential sewage (such as composting* and incinerating** toilets).	*NSF/ANSI Standard 41: Non-Liquid Saturated Treatment Systems (versions dated between February 2011 and the effective date of these rules)  **NSF Protocol P157 Electrical Incinerating Toilets - Health and Sanitation (April 2000)
<b>Total Nitrogen Reduction in Categories 1 &amp; 2 (Above)</b>	NSF/ANSI Standard 245: Residential Wastewater Treatment Systems – Nitrogen Reduction (versions dated between January 2018 and the effective date of these rules)

TABLE II

Test Results Reporting Requirements for Proprietary Treatment Products	
Treatment Component/Sequence Category	Testing Results Reported
<p><b>Category 1</b> Designed to treat sewage typical of a residential source with septic tank effluent quality parameters anticipated to be equal to or less than treatment level E.</p>	<p>Report test results of influent and effluent sampling obtained throughout the testing period for evaluation of constituent reduction for the parameters: CBOD<sub>5</sub><sup>2</sup>, and TSS:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Average <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Standard Deviation</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Minimum <span style="margin-left: 180px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Maximum</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Median <span style="margin-left: 180px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Interquartile Range</span></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 30-day Average (for each month)</p> <p>For bacteriological reduction performance:</p> <p>1) Complete treatment component sequence testing as described in Table III, Category 1 and report fecal coliform or E. coli test results of influent and effluent sampling by geometric mean from samples drawn within thirty-day or monthly calendar periods, obtained from a minimum of three samples per week throughout the testing period as in WAC 246-272A-0130; or</p> <p>2) Complete testing for supplemental bacteriological reduction technology<sup>1</sup> when the required treatment levels for fecal coliform or E. coli in Table III, Category 1 are not met by the primary proprietary treatment product.</p> <p>For both options test reports must also include the individual results of all samples drawn throughout the test period.</p>
<p><b>Category 2</b> Designed to treat sewage with sewage quality parameters anticipated to be greater than treatment level E.</p> <p>(Such as at restaurants, grocery stores, mini-marts, group homes, medical clinics, atypical residences, etc.)</p>	<p>Report all individual test results and full test average values of influent and effluent sampling obtained throughout the testing period for: CBOD<sub>5</sub><sup>2</sup>, TSS and O&amp;G. Establish the treatment capacity of the product tested in pounds per day for CBOD<sub>5</sub>.</p>
<p><b>Category 3</b> Black water component of residential sewage (such as composting and incinerating toilets).</p>	<p>Report test results on all required performance criteria according to the format prescribed in the NSF test protocol described in Table I.</p>
<p><b>Total Nitrogen Reduction in Categories 1 &amp; 2 (Above)</b></p>	<p>Report test results on all required performance criteria according to the format prescribed in the test protocol described in Table I.</p>

<sup>1</sup>Supplemental bacteriological reduction technology must be tested for influent/effluent fecal coliform or E. coli per WAC 246-272A-0130 (bacteriological reduction testing protocol) or NSF Standard 385. Supplemental fecal coliform or E. coli reducing technologies will be rated for log base 10 removal of fecal coliform or E. coli. The lowest 30 day geometric mean will be used to rate reduction level. The highest monthly geometric mean for treatment technology fecal coliform or E. coli reduction will be used as the baseline value for review.

<sup>2</sup> Test results for BOD<sub>5</sub> may be submitted in lieu of test results for CBOD<sub>5</sub>. In these cases numerical values for CBOD<sub>5</sub> will be determined using the following formula: (BOD<sub>5</sub> x 0.83 = CBOD<sub>5</sub>).

TABLE III

Product Performance Requirements for Proprietary Treatment Products							
Treatment Component/Sequence Category	Product Performance Requirements						
<b>Category 1</b> Designed to treat sewage typical of a residential source with septic tank effluent quality parameters anticipated to be equal to or less than treatment level E.	<b>Treatment System Performance Testing Levels</b>						
	<b>Level</b>	<b>Parameters</b>					
		<b>CBOD<sub>5</sub></b>	<b>TSS</b>	<b>O&amp;G</b>	<b>FC</b>	<b>TN</b>	<b>E coli</b>
	<b>A</b>	10 mg/L	10 mg/L	—		—	
	<b>B</b>	15 mg/L	15 mg/L	—		—	
	<b>C</b>	25 mg/L	30 mg/L	—		—	
	<b>DL1</b>				200/100 ml		126/100 ml
	<b>DL2</b>				1,000/100 ml		1,000/100 ml
	<b>DL3</b>				50,000/100 ml		50,000/100 ml
				—	—	—	
	<b>E</b>	228 mg/L	80 mg/L	20 mg/L	—	—	
<b>N</b>	—	—	—	—	30 mg/L or 50% reduction based on mass loading as required in WAC 246-272A-0320		
Values for Levels A - C are 30-day values (averages for CBOD <sub>5</sub> , TSS.) All 30-day averages throughout the test period must meet these values in order to be registered at these levels. Values for Levels DL1 – DL3 are 30-day geometric mean values. All 30-day geometric means throughout the test period must meet these values in order to be registered at these levels. Values for Levels E and N are derived from full test averages.							
<b>Category 2</b> Designed to treat sewage with sewage quality	All of the following requirements must be met:						

<b>Product Performance Requirements for Proprietary Treatment Products</b>		
<b>Treatment Component/Sequence Category</b>	<b>Product Performance Requirements</b>	
parameters anticipated to be greater than treatment level E.  (Such as at restaurants, grocery stores, mini-marts, group homes, medical clinics atypical residences, etc.)	(1) All full test averages must meet Level E; and  (2) Establish the treatment capacity of the product tested in pounds per day for CBOD <sub>5</sub> .	
<b>Category 3</b> Black water component of residential sewage (such as composting and incinerating toilets).	Test results must meet the performance requirements established in the NSF test protocol.	
<b>Total Nitrogen Reduction in Categories 1 &amp; 2 (Above)</b>	Test results must establish product performance effluent quality meeting Level N, when presented as the full test average.	

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0110, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

**WAC 246-272A-0120 Proprietary treatment product**

**registration—Process and requirements.** (1) Manufacturers shall register their proprietary treatment product(s) with the department by submitting a complete application in the format provided by the department, including:

(a) Manufacturer's name, mailing address, phone number, email address and website;

(b) Contact individual's name and title, mailing address, email address, and phone number. The contact individual must be vested with the authority to represent the manufacturer in this capacity;

(c) Name, including specific brand and model, of the proprietary treatment product;

(d) A description of the function of the proprietary treatment product along with any known limitation(s) on the use of the product;

(e) Product description and technical information, including process flow drawings and schematics; materials and characteristics; component design specifications; design capacity, volumes and flow assumptions and calculations; components; dimensioned drawings and photos;

(f) For treatment systems in Category 2, daily capacity of the model or models in pounds per day of CBOD<sub>5</sub>;

(g) Siting and installation requirements;

(h) Detailed description, procedure and schedule of routine service and system maintenance events;

(i) Estimated operational costs for the first five years of the treatment component's life. This shall include both estimated annual electricity costs, and routine maintenance costs, including replacement of parts;

(j) Identification of information subject to protection from disclosure of trade secrets;

(k) Most current dated copies of product brochures & manuals: *Sales & Promotional; Design; Installation; Operation & Maintenance; and Homeowner Instructions;*

(l) The most recently available product test protocol dated no earlier than the dates in Table I and the testing results report;

(m) A signed and dated certification by the manufacturer's agent specifically including the following statement, "I certify that I represent (INSERT MANUFACTURING COMPANY NAME) and I am authorized to prepare or direct the preparation of this application for registration. I attest, under penalty of law, that this document and all attachments are true, accurate, and complete. I understand and accept that the product testing results reported with this application for registration are the parameters and values to be used for determining conformance with Treatment System Performance Testing Levels established in chapter 246-272A WAC";

(n) A signed and dated certification from the testing entity including the statement, "I certify that I represent (INSERT TESTING ENTITY NAME), that I am authorized to report the testing results for this proprietary treatment product. I attest, under penalty of law, that the report about the test protocol and results is true, accurate, and complete"; and

(o) The fee described in WAC 246-272-2000.

(2) Products within a single series or model line (sharing distinct similarities in design, materials, and capacities) may be registered under a single application, consistent with the provisions of their test protocol for the certification of other products within a product series. Products outside of the series or model line must be registered under separate applications.

(3) Upon receipt of an application the department shall:

(a) Verify that the application is complete, including dated and current copies of all the required manuals; and

(b) If complete, place the product on the list of proprietary treatment products.

(4) All registrations are valid for up to one year, expiring on December 31 of each year. Fees are not prorated.

(5) In order to renew a proprietary treatment product technology registration, a manufacturer shall:

(a) Apply for renewal of product registration using the form or in the format provided by the department;

(b) Submit any of the following reports from the testing entity, if applicable:

(i) If the product has completed retesting according to the protocol required for registration;

(ii) To verify field performance as identified in DS&G. If field performance results demonstrate that the product has failed to meet the requirements in the performance DS&G the manufacturer shall report to the department describing the reasons for the failure to meet the requirements consistent with the DS&G;

(c) Provide an affidavit to the department verifying whether or not the product has changed over the previous year. If the product has changed, the affidavit must also include a full description of the changes. If the product has changed in a way that affects performance, the product may not be renewed and shall meet the requirements for initial registration;

(d) Provide a statement that all required dated manuals are current, or submit the updated and dated new manuals; and

(e) Submit the fee established in WAC 246-272-2000.

(6) As part of product registration renewal, the department shall:

(a) Request field assessment comments from local health officers no later than October 31st of each year. These comments may include concerns about a variety of field assessment issues, including:

(i) Product function, including verification of field performance testing as identified in the DS&G;

(ii) Product reliability; and

(iii) Problems arising with operation and maintenance.

(b) Discuss with the TAG any field assessment information that may impact product registration renewal;

(c) Notify the manufacturer of any product to be discussed with the TAG, prior to discussion with the TAG, regarding the nature of comments received;

(d) Renew the product registration unless:

(i) The manufacturer of a product does not apply for renewal; or

(ii) The department, after deliberation with the TAG, concludes product registration renewal should not be given or should be delayed until the manufacturer submits information that satisfactorily answers concerns and issues; and

(e) Provide a compliance plan to the manufacturer within ninety (90) days based on departmental concerns of public health risk related to the product.

(7) The department shall maintain a list of proprietary treatment products meeting the registration requirements established in this chapter. The product registration is a condition of approval for use.

(8) Manufacturers shall have readily accessible information for designers, regulators, OSS owners and other interested parties about their product posted on the manufacturer's website including the most current, dated version of:

- (a) Product manuals;
- (b) Design instructions;
- (c) Installation instructions;

(d) Operation and maintenance;

(e) Owner instructions; and

(f) How to locate a list of representatives and manufacturer certified service providers, if any.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0120, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

**WAC 246-272A-0130 Bacteriological reduction.** This section establishes the requirements for registering bacteriological reduction processes.

(1) Manufacturers shall, for the purpose of product registration as described in WAC 246-272A-0110 and 246-272A-0120 for meeting treatment levels DL 1, DL 2, or DL 3, verify bacteriological reduction performance by sampling for fecal coliform or E. coli.

(2) All test data submitted for product registration shall be produced by an ANSI accredited, third-party testing and certification organization whose accreditation is specific to on-site wastewater treatment products. Bacteriological reduction performance must be determined either:

(a) According to the procedures in NSF/ANSI Standard 385 for supplemental bacteriological reduction; or

(b) During treatment product or treatment component sequence testing according to the NSF/ANSI Standard 40 testing protocol.

(3) During testing under (a) or (b) of subsection (2) of this section the following requirements apply:

(a) Collect samples from both the influent and effluent streams, identifying the treatment performance achieved by the full treatment process (component or sequence);

(b) Obtain influent characteristics falling within a range of  $10^6$  -  $10^8$  fecal coliform/100 mL calculated as thirty-day geometric means during the test;

(c) Test the influent to any disinfection unit and report the following at each occasion of sampling performed in (d) of this subsection:

(i) Flow rate;

(ii) pH;

(iii) Temperature;

(iv) Turbidity; and

(v) Color;

(d) Obtain samples for fecal coliform analysis during both the design loading and stress loading periods identified by NSF/ANSI Standard 40. Grab samples shall be collected from both the influent and effluent on three separate days of the week. Each set of influent and effluent grab samples must be taken from a different dosing time frame (morning, afternoon, or evening) so that samples have been taken from each dosing time frame by the end of the week;

(e) Conduct analyses according to standard methods;

(f) Report the geometric mean of fecal coliform test results from all samples taken within thirty-day or monthly calendar periods;

(g) Report the individual results of all samples taken throughout the test period design and stress loading; and

(h) Report all maintenance and servicing conducted during the testing period, including for example, instances of cleaning a UV lamp, or replenishment of chlorine chemicals.

(4) Manufacturers may register products using NSF/ANSI 385 supplemental bacteriological reduction technology in treatment levels DL1 and DL2.

(5) Manufacturers may not register products using NSF/ANSI 385 supplemental bacteriological reduction technology for treatment level DL3.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 06-01-020, § 246-272A-0130, filed 12/12/05, effective 1/12/06; WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0130, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

**WAC 246-272A-0140 Proprietary distribution products-**

**Certification and registration.** (1) Manufacturers shall register proprietary distribution products, including gravelless distribution products and subsurface dripline products, with the department before the local health officer may permit their use.

(2) Manufacturers desiring to sell proprietary distribution products shall certify that the product(s) meets the standards established in this chapter and register their product(s) with the department using the process described in WAC 246-272A-0145.

(3) Proprietary gravelless distribution products shall:

(a) Be constructed or manufactured from materials that are nondecaying and nondeteriorating and do not leach chemicals when exposed to sewage and the subsurface soil environment;

(b) Provide liquid storage volume at least equal to the storage volume provided within the thirty percent void space in a twelve-inch layer of drainrock in a drainrock-filled distribution system. This storage volume must be established by the gravelless distribution products, system design and installation and must be maintained for the life of the system. This requirement may be met on a lineal-foot, or on an overall system design basis;

(c) Provide suitable effluent distribution to the infiltrative surface at the soil interface; and

(d) Maintain the integrity of the trench or bed. The material used, by its nature and its manufacturer-prescribed installation procedure, must withstand the physical forces of the soil sidewalls, soil backfill and the weight of equipment used in the backfilling.

(4) Proprietary subsurface dripline products shall:

(a) Be warranted by the manufacturer for use with sewage and for resistance to root intrusion.

(b) Incorporate emitters with a maximum nominal rated discharge of 1.3 gallons per hour. Emitter discharge rate may be controlled either by use of pressure-compensating emitters or with a pressure regulator.

(c) Be color-coded purple to identify that the pipe contains nonpotable water from a sewage source.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0140, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

**WAC 246-272A-0145 Proprietary distribution product**

**registration-Process and requirements.** (1) Manufacturers shall register their proprietary distribution product(s) with the department by submitting a complete application in the format provided by the department, including:

(a) Manufacturer's name, mailing address, email address, website, and phone number;

(b) Contact individual's name and title, mailing address, email address, and phone number. The contact individual must be

vested with the authority to represent the manufacturer in this capacity;

(c) Name, including specific brand and model, of the proprietary distribution product;

(d) A description of the function of the proprietary distribution product along with any known limitations on the use of the product;

(e) Product description and technical information, including schematics; materials and characteristics; component design specifications; design capacity, volumes and flow assumptions and calculations; components; dimensioned drawings and photos;

(f) Siting and installation requirements;

(g) Detailed description, procedure and schedule of routine service and system maintenance events;

(h) Identification of information subject to protection from disclosure of trade secrets;

(i) Most current, dated copies of product brochures and manuals: *Sales & Promotional; Design; Installation; Operation & Maintenance; and Owner Instructions;*

(j) For gravelless chamber systems a quantitative description of the actual exposed trench-bottom infiltrative surface area for each model seeking registration;

(k) A statement from a professional engineer that certifies the technology meets the standards established in WAC 246-272A-0140;

(l) A signed and dated certification by the manufacturer's agent specifically including the following statement, "I certify that I represent (INSERT MANUFACTURING COMPANY NAME) and I am authorized to prepare or direct the preparation of this application for product registration. I attest, under penalty of law, that this document and all attachments, are true, accurate, and complete."

(m) A signed and dated certification from the licensed professional engineer including the statement, "I certify that I represent (INSERT PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING FIRM NAME), that I am authorized to certify the performance characteristics for the proprietary distribution product presented in this application. I attest, under penalty of law, that the technology report is true, accurate, and complete."

(n) The fee established in WAC 246-272-2000.

(2) Products within a single series or model line (sharing distinct similarities in design, materials, and capacities) may be registered under a single application. Products outside of the series or model line must be registered under separate applications.

(3) Upon receipt of an application the department shall:

(a) Verify that the application is complete, including dated and current copies of all required manuals; and

(b) If complete, place the product on the list of proprietary distribution products.

(4) All registrations are valid for up to one year, expiring on December 31st of each year. Required fees are not prorated.

(5) In order to renew a proprietary distribution product registration, a manufacturer shall:

(a) Apply for renewal of product registration using the form or in the format provided by the department;

(b) Provide an affidavit to the department verifying whether or not the product has changed over the previous year. If the product has changed, the affidavit must also include a

full description of the changes. If the product has changed in a way that affects performance, the product may not be renewed and shall meet the requirements of initial registration;

(c) Provide a statement that all required dated manuals are current, or submit the updated and dated new manuals; and

(d) Submit the fee established in WAC 246-272-2000.

(6) As part of product registration renewal, the department shall:

(a) Request field assessment comments from local health officers no later than October 31st of each year. These comments may include concerns about a variety of field assessment issues, including product function, product reliability, and problems arising with operation and maintenance;

(b) Discuss with the TAG any field assessment information that may impact product registration renewal;

(c) Notify the manufacturer of any product to be discussed with the TAG, prior to discussion with the TAG, regarding the nature of comments received;

(d) Renew the product registration unless:

(i) The manufacturer of a product does not apply for renewal; or

(ii) The department, after deliberation with the TAG, concludes product registration renewal should not be given or should be delayed until the manufacturer submits information that satisfactorily answers concerns and issues; and

(e) Provide a compliance plan to the manufacturer within ninety (90) days based on departmental concerns of public health risk related to the product.

(7) The department shall maintain a list of proprietary distribution products meeting the registration requirements established in this chapter. The product registration is a condition of approval for use.

(8) Manufacturers shall have readily accessible information for designers, regulators, OSS owners and other interested parties about their product posted on the manufacturer's website including the most current, dated version of:

(a) Product manuals;

(b) Design instructions;

(c) Installation instructions;

(d) Operation and maintenance;

(e) Owner instructions; and

(f) How to locate a list of representatives and manufacturer certified service providers, if any.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0145, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

**WAC 246-272A-0170 Product development permits.** (1) A local health officer may issue a product development permit (PDP) for any proprietary treatment component or sequence. In order to protect public health during the development period, a complete system meeting the requirements of this chapter and the site must be installed. The product under development may then be added to the treatment system allowing the product developer to gather data about the product's performance in the field. The PDP allows product developers to explore and develop new technologies prior to product testing and registration under WAC 246-272A-0110 and 246-272A-0120. The PDP is not an alternative to testing and registration.

(2) An application for a PDP shall include all of the following:

(a) Proof of an existing conforming system in compliance with all local requirements, or a permit for a conforming system. The conforming system must be installed in its entirety before the PDP becomes valid;

(b) A description of the product under development including performance goals and a description of how the system will be used to treat sewage;

(c) Documentation of financial assurance that will cover the correction of any potential public health threats or environmental damage resulting from the use of the product under development. Instruments of financial assurance include:

(i) An irrevocable letter of credit in the amount required by the local health officer issued by an entity authorized to issue letters of credit in Washington state;

(ii) Cash or security deposit payable to the local health jurisdiction in the amount required by the local health officer;  
or

(iii) Any other financial assurance that satisfies the local health officer.

(d) Documentation signed by the owner of the proposed product development site allowing access to the local health officer for inspection of the site; and

(e) Any other information required by the local health officer.

(3) The local health officer may stipulate additional requirements for a PDP necessary to ensure the performance of the conforming system, including providing performance data to the local health officer.

(4) A PDP is a site-specific permit. Product development at multiple sites requires a PDP for each site.

(5) During the term of the PDP, product development, testing and sampling are under the full control of the product developer and all data collected is considered proprietary information.

(6) A PDP is valid for one year and may be renewed by the local health officer.

(7) The product development period is over when the original PDP or any subsequently renewed permits have expired. At this time the product developer:

(a) Shall, at the direction of the local health officer, remove the product under development from the site, reestablishing all appropriate plumbing and power connections for the conforming system.

(b) May subject the product to performance testing described in WAC 246-272A-0110 in order to allow the product to be eligible for registration with the department.

(8) The local health officer may revoke or amend a PDP:

(a) If the continued operation or presence of the product under development:

(i) Presents a risk to the public health or the environment;

(ii) Causes adverse effects on the proper function of the conforming system on the site; or

(iii) Leaks or discharges sewage on the surface of the ground.

(b) If the developer fails to comply with any requirements stipulated on the permit by the local health officer.

(9) The local health officer may charge fees adequate to administer the PDP program.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0170, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

### **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

**WAC 246-272A-0200 Permit requirements.** (1) Except for a minor repair as described in subsection (2) of this section, a person proposing the installation, repair, modification, connection to, or expansion of an OSS, shall obtain a permit from the local health officer prior to beginning the construction process. The permit application must include the following:

(a) General information including:

(i) Name and address of the property owner and the applicant at the head of each page of submission;

(ii) Parcel number and if available, the address of the site;

(iii) Source of drinking water supply;

(iv) Identification if the property is within the boundaries of a recognized sewer utility;

(v) Size of the parcel;

(vi) Type of permit for which application is being made, for example, new installation, repair, expansion, modification, or operational;

(vii) Source of sewage, for example, residence, restaurant, or other type of business;

(viii) Location of utilities;

(ix) Name of the site evaluator;

(x) Date of application; and

(xi) Name and signature of the fee simple owner, the contract purchaser of the property or the owner's authorized agent.

(b) The soil and site evaluation as specified under WAC 246-272A-0220.

(c) A dimensioned site plan of the proposed initial system, the reserve area and those areas immediately adjacent that contain characteristics impacting design including:

(i) Designated areas for the proposed initial system and the reserve area;

(ii) The location of all soil logs and other soil tests for the OSS;

(iii) General topography and/or slope;

(iv) Drainage characteristics;

(v) The location of existing and proposed encumbrances affecting system placement, including legal access documents if any component of the OSS is not on the lot where the sewage is generated;

(vi) An arrow indicating north;

(vii) A legend of symbols used;

(viii) Plan scale and a graphic scale bar;

(ix) Vertical datum used (such as "assumed", "NAVD 88", "NSRS", "unknown");

(x) An elevation benchmark and relative elevations of system components;

(xi) Name, signature, stamp and contact information of the designer; and

(xii) A statement on limitation of use indicating the site plan is not a survey.

(d) A detailed system design meeting the requirements under WAC 246-272A-0230, 246-272A-0232, 246-272A-0234, and 246-272A-0238 including:

(i) A drawing showing the dimensioned location of components of the proposed OSS, and the system designed for the reserve area if reserve site characteristics differ significantly from the initial area;

(ii) Vertical cross-section drawings showing:

(A) The depth of the soil dispersal component, the vertical separation, and depth of cover material; and

(B) Other new OSS components constructed at the site.

(iii) Calculations and assumptions supporting the proposed design, including:

(A) System operating capacity and design flow;

(B) Soil type; and

(C) Hydraulic loading rate in the soil dispersal component;

and

(e) Any additional information as deemed necessary by the local health officer.

(2) A permit is not required for a minor repair. The local health officer may require the owner to submit information regarding these activities for recordkeeping purposes.

(3) The local health officer may develop the information required in subsection (1) of this section if authorized by local regulations.

(4) The local health officer shall:

(a) Respond to an application within thirty days as required in RCW 70.05.074;

(b) Permit only public domain technologies that have a DS&G. Permit only proprietary products that are registered by the department;

(c) Issue a permit when the information submitted under subsection (1) of this section meets the requirements contained in this chapter and in local regulations;

(d) Identify the permit as a new installation, repair, expansion, modification, or operational permit;

(e) Specify the expiration date on the permit. The expiration date may not exceed five years from the date of permit issuance;

(f) Include a reminder on the permit application of the applicant's right of appeal; and

(g) If requiring an operational permit, state the period of validity and the date and conditions of renewal, including any required field compliance.

(5) The local health officer may revoke or deny a permit for just cause. Examples include, but are not limited to:

(a) Construction or continued use of an OSS that threatens the public health;

(b) Misrepresentation or concealment of material fact in information submitted to the local health officer; or

(c) Failure to meet conditions of the permit, this chapter or any local regulations.

(6) Before the local health officer issues a permit for the installation of an OSS to serve more than one development, the applicant shall show:

(a) An approved public entity owning or managing the OSS in perpetuity; or

(b) A management arrangement acceptable to the local health officer, recorded in covenant, lasting until the on-site system is no longer needed, and containing, but not limited to:

(i) A recorded easement or restrictive covenant allowing access for construction, operation, monitoring maintenance, and repair of the OSS; and

(ii) Adequate financing to fund the operation, maintenance, and repair of the OSS.

(7) The local health officer shall not delegate the authority to issue permits.

(8) The local health officer may stipulate additional requirements for a particular permit if necessary for public health protection.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0200, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**WAC 246-272A-0210 Location.** (1) Persons shall design and install OSS to meet the minimum horizontal separations shown in Table IV, Minimum Horizontal Separations:

**Table IV**

**Minimum Horizontal Separations**

Items Requiring Setback	From edge of soil dispersal component and reserve area	From sewage tank and distribution box	From building sewer, and nonperforated distribution pipe
Well	100 ft.	50 ft.	50 ft.
Non-public drinking water well	100 ft.	50 ft.	50 ft.
Public drinking water well	100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.

Items Requiring Setback	From edge of soil dispersal component and reserve area	From sewage tank and distribution box	From building sewer, and nonperforated distribution pipe
Public drinking water spring or surface water measured from the ordinary high-water mark <sup>1</sup>	200 ft.	200 ft.	100 ft.
Non-public drinking water spring or surface water measured from the ordinary high-water mark	100 ft.	50 ft.	50 ft.
Non-public, in-ground, drinking water containment vessel <sup>2</sup>	20 ft.	10 ft.	10 ft.
Pressurized water supply line or easement for water supply line	10 ft.	10 ft.	10 ft.
Closed geothermal loop <sup>3</sup>	10 ft.	10 ft.	10 ft.
Decommissioned well (decommissioned in accordance with chapter 173-160 WAC)	10 ft.	N/A	N/A
Surface water measured from the ordinary high-water mark	100 ft.	50 ft.	10 ft.
Building foundation/in-ground swimming pool	10 ft.	5 ft.	2 ft.
Property or easement line	5 ft.	5 ft.	N/A
Lined stormwater detention pond <sup>4</sup>			
Down-gradient <sup>5</sup> :	30 ft.	N/A	N/A
Up-gradient <sup>5</sup> :	10 ft.	N/A	N/A
Unlined stormwater infiltration pond <sup>4</sup> (up or down-gradient) <sup>5</sup>	100 ft.	50 ft.	10 ft.
Irrigation canal or irrigation pond (up or down gradient) <sup>5</sup>	100 ft.	50 ft.	10 ft.
Interceptors/curtain drains/foundation drains/drainage ditches			
Down-gradient <sup>5</sup> :	30 ft.	5 ft.	N/A
Up-gradient <sup>5</sup> :	10 ft.	N/A	N/A
Subsurface stormwater infiltration or dispersion component <sup>4</sup>			
Down-gradient <sup>5</sup> :	10 ft.	10 ft.	N/A
Up-gradient <sup>5</sup> :	30 ft.	10 ft.	N/A
Other site features that may allow effluent to surface			
Down-gradient <sup>5</sup> :	30 ft.	5 ft.	N/A
Up-gradient <sup>5</sup> :	10 ft.	N/A	N/A
Down-gradient cuts or banks with at least 5 ft. of original, undisturbed soil above a restrictive layer due to a structural or textural change	25 ft.	N/A	N/A

Items Requiring Setback	From edge of soil dispersal component and reserve area	From sewage tank and distribution box	From building sewer, and nonperforated distribution pipe
Down-gradient cuts or banks with less than 5 ft. of original, undisturbed soil above a restrictive layer due to a structural or textural change	50 ft.	N/A	N/A
Other adjacent soil dispersal components	10 ft.	N/A	N/A

<sup>1</sup> If surface water is used as a public drinking water supply, the designer shall locate the OSS outside of the required source water protection area.

<sup>2</sup> Any in-ground containment vessel used to store drinking water.

<sup>3</sup> A network of underground piping carrying fluid under pressure used to heat and cool a structure.

<sup>4</sup> OSS components take precedence in cases of horizontal setback conflicts between OSS and stormwater components.

<sup>5</sup> Down-gradient means that subsurface water flows toward and is usually located lower in elevation. Up-gradient means subsurface water does not flow toward, or flows away from, and is usually located higher in elevation.

(2) If any condition indicates a greater potential for contamination or pollution, the local health officer may increase the minimum horizontal separations. Examples of such conditions include excessively permeable soils, unconfined aquifers, shallow or saturated soils, dug wells, and improperly abandoned wells.

(3) The local health officer may allow a reduced horizontal separation to not less than two feet where the property line or easement line is up-gradient.

(4) The horizontal separation between an OSS dispersal component and an individual water well, individual spring, or surface water that is not a public water source can be reduced to a minimum of seventy-five feet, by the local health officer,

and be described as a conforming system upon signed approval by the health officer if the applicant demonstrates:

(a) Adequate protective site-specific conditions, such as physical settings with low hydro-geologic susceptibility from contaminant infiltration. Examples of such conditions include evidence of confining layers and/or aquatards separating potable water from the OSS treatment zone, excessive depth to groundwater, down-gradient contaminant source, or outside the zone of influence; or

(b) Design and proper operation of an OSS system assuring enhanced treatment performance beyond that accomplished by meeting the vertical separation and effluent distribution requirements described in WAC 246-272A-0230 Table VI; or

(c) Evidence of protective conditions involving both (a) and (b) of this subsection.

(5) Persons shall design and/or install a soil dispersal component only if:

(a) The slope is less than forty-five percent (twenty-four degrees);

(b) The area is not subject to:

(i) Encroachment by buildings or construction such as placement of power poles and underground utilities;

(ii) Cover by impervious material;

(iii) Vehicular traffic; or

(iv) Other activities adversely affecting the soil or the performance of the OSS.

(c) Sufficient reserve area for replacement exists to treat and dispose one hundred percent of the design flow;

(d) The land is stable; and

(e) Surface drainage is directed away from the site.

(6) The local health officer may approve a sewer transport line within ten feet of a water supply line if the sewer line is constructed in accordance with section C1-9.1 of the department of ecology's "*Criteria For Sewage Works Design*," 2008.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0210, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**WAC 246-272A-0220 Soil and site evaluation.** (1) Only professional engineers, designers, or local health officers may perform soil and site evaluations. Soil scientists may only perform soil evaluations.

(2) The person evaluating the soil and site shall:

(a) Report:

(i) A sufficient number of soil logs to evaluate conditions within:

(A) The initial soil dispersal component; and

(B) The reserve area.

(ii) The groundwater conditions, the date of the observation, and the probable maximum height;

(iii) The topography of the proposed initial system, the reserve area, and those areas immediately adjacent that contain characteristics impacting the design;

(iv) The drainage characteristics of the proposed initial system, the reserve area and those areas immediately adjacent that contain characteristics impacting the design;

(v) The existence of structurally deficient soils subject to major wind or water erosion events such as slide zones and dunes;

(vi) The existence of designated flood plains;

(vii) The existence of drainage areas;

(viii) Other areas identified in the local management plan required in WAC 246-272A-0015; and

(ix) The location of existing features affecting system placement, such as, but not limited to:

(A) Wells;

(B) Water sources and supply lines;

(C) Surface water and stormwater infiltration areas;

(D) Abandoned wells;

(E) Outcrops of bedrock and restrictive layers;

(F) Buildings;

(G) Property lines and lines of easement;

(H) Interceptors such as footing drains, curtain drains, and drainage ditches;

(I) Cuts, banks, and fills;

(J) Driveways and parking areas;

(K) Existing OSS; and

(L) Underground utilities;

(b) Use the soil and site evaluation procedures and terminology in accordance with Chapter 5 of the *On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems Manual*, EPA 625/R-00/008, February

2002 except where modified by, or in conflict with, this chapter (available upon request to the department);

(c) Use the soil names and particle size limits of the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service classification system;

(d) Determine texture, structure, compaction and other soil characteristics that affect the treatment and water movement potential of the soil by using normal field and/or laboratory procedures such as particle size analysis; and

(e) Classify the soil as in Table V, Soil Type Descriptions:

**TABLE V**

**Soil Type Descriptions**

<b>Soil Type</b>	<b>Soil Textural Classifications</b>
<b>1</b>	Gravelly and very gravelly coarse sands, all extremely gravelly soils excluding those with soil types 5 and 6 as the non-gravel portion, and all soil types with greater than or equal to 90% rock fragments.
<b>2</b>	Coarse sands.
<b>3</b>	Medium sands, loamy coarse sands, loamy medium sands.
<b>4</b>	Fine sands, loamy fine sands, sandy loams, loams.
<b>5</b>	Very fine sands, loamy very fine sands; or silt loams, sandy clay loams, clay loams and silty clay loams with a moderate or strong

Soil Type	Soil Textural Classifications
	structure (excluding platy structure).
6	Other silt loams, sandy clay loams, clay loams, silty clay loams.
7 <b>Unsuitable for treatment or dispersal</b>	Sandy clay, clay, silty clay, strongly cemented or firm soils, soil with a moderate or strong platy structure, any soil with a massive structure, any soil with appreciable amounts of expanding clays.

(3) The owner of the property or his agent shall:

(a) Prepare the soil log excavation to:

(i) Allow examination of the soil profile in its original position by:

(A) Excavating pits of sufficient dimensions to enable observation of soil characteristics by visual and tactile means to a depth three feet deeper than the anticipated infiltrative surface at the bottom of the soil dispersal component; or

(B) Stopping at a shallower depth if a water table or restrictive layer is encountered;

(ii) Allow determination of the soil's texture, structure, color, bulk density or compaction, water absorption capabilities or permeability, and elevation of the highest seasonal water table; and

(b) Assume responsibility for constructing and maintaining the soil log excavation in a manner to prevent injury as required by chapter 296-155 WAC.

(4) The local health officer:

(a) Shall render a decision on the height of the water table within twelve months of receiving the application under precipitation conditions typical for the region;

(b) May require water table measurements to be recorded during months of probable high-water table conditions, if insufficient information is available to determine the highest seasonal water table;

(c) May require any other soil and site information affecting location, design, or installation; and

(d) May reduce the required number of soil logs for OSS serving a single-family residence if adequate soils information has previously been developed.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0220, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**WAC 246-272A-0230 Design requirements—General.** (1) On-site sewage systems may only be designed by professional

engineers, licensed under chapter 18.43 RCW or on-site sewage treatment system designers, licensed under chapter 18.210 RCW, except:

(a) If at the discretion of the local health officer, a resident owner of a single-family residence not within two hundred feet of a marine shoreline is allowed to design a system for that residence; or

(b) If the local health officer performs the soil and site evaluation, the health officer is allowed to design a system.

(2) The designer shall use the following criteria when developing a design for an OSS:

(a) All sewage from the building served is directed to the OSS;

(b) Sewage tanks have been reviewed and approved by the department;

(c) Drainage from the surface, footing drains, roof drains, subsurface stormwater infiltration systems, and other nonsewage drains is prevented from entering the OSS, the area where the OSS is located, and the reserve area;

(d) The OSS is designed to treat and disperse the sewage volume as follows:

(i) For single-family residences:

(A) The operating capacity is based on 45 gpd per capita with two people per bedroom.

(B) The minimum design flow per bedroom per day is the operating capacity of ninety gallons multiplied by 1.33. This results in a minimum design flow of one hundred twenty gallons per bedroom per day.

(C) A factor greater than 0.33 to account for surge capacity may be required by the local health officer.

(D) The local health officer may require an increase of the design flow for dwellings with anticipated greater flows, such as larger dwellings.

(E) The minimum design flow is two hundred forty gallons per day.

(ii) For other facilities, the design flows noted in "*On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems Manual*," EPA, EPA-625/R-00/008, February 2002 (available upon request to the department) shall be used. Sewage flows from other sources of information

may be used in determining system design flows if they incorporate both an operating capacity and a surge capacity.

(e) The OSS is designed to address sewage quality as follows:

(i) For all systems, the designer shall consider:

(A) CBOD<sub>5</sub>, TSS, and O&G;

(B) Other parameters that can adversely affect treatment anywhere along the treatment component sequence. Examples include pH, temperature and dissolved oxygen;

(C) The sensitivity of the site where the OSS will be installed. Examples include areas where fecal coliform constituents can result in public health concerns, such as shellfish growing areas, designated swimming areas, and other areas identified by the local management plan required in WAC 246-272A-0015.

(D) Nitrogen contributions. Where nitrogen has been identified as a contaminant of concern by the local management plan required in WAC 246-272A-0015, it shall be addressed through lot size and/or treatment.

(ii) For OSS treating sewage from a nonresidential source, the designer shall provide the following information:

(A) Information to show the sewage is not industrial wastewater;

(B) Information regarding the sewage effluent quality and identifying chemicals found in the sewage effluent that are not found in sewage effluent from a residential source; and

(C) A site-specific design providing the necessary treatment to equal that required of sewage effluent quality from a single family residential source;

(f) The vertical separation to be used to establish the treatment levels and application rates. The selected vertical separation shall be used consistently throughout the design process.

(g) Treatment levels:

(i) Requirements for matching treatment component and method of distribution with soil conditions of the soil dispersal component are listed in Table VI. The treatment levels correspond with those established for treatment components under the product performance testing requirements in Table III of WAC

246-272A-0110. The method of distribution applies to the soil dispersal component.

(ii) Disinfection may not be used to achieve the fecal coliform requirements to meet:

- (A) Treatment levels A or B in Type 1 soils; or
- (B) Treatment level C.

**TABLE VI**

**Treatment Component Performance Levels  
and Method of Distribution<sup>1</sup>**

Vertical Separation in inches	Soil Type		
	1	2	3-6
12 < 18	A & DL1 pressure with timed dosing	B & DL2 pressure with timed dosing	B & DL2 pressure with timed dosing
≥18 < 24	B & DL2 pressure with timed dosing	C & DL3 pressure with timed dosing	C & DL3 pressure with timed dosing
≥24 < 36	B & DL2 pressure with timed dosing	C & DL3 pressure with timed dosing	E pressure with timed dosing
≥36 < 60	B & DL2 pressure with timed dosing	E pressure	E gravity
≥60	C & DL2 pressure	E gravity	E gravity

<sup>1</sup>The treatment component performance levels correspond with those established for treatment components under the product testing requirements in WAC 246-272A-0110.

(3) The coarsest textured soil within the vertical separation selected by the designer shall determine the minimum treatment level and method of distribution.

(4) The local health officer shall not approve designs for:

(a) Cesspools; or

(b) Seepage pits.

(5) The local health officer may approve a design for the reserve area different from the design approved for the initial OSS, if both designs meet the requirements of this chapter for new construction.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0230, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**WAC 246-272A-0232 Design requirements—Septic tank sizing.**

Septic tanks shall:

(1) Have at least two compartments with the first compartment liquid volume equal to one-half to two-thirds of the total liquid volume. This standard may be met by one tank with two compartments or by two single compartment tanks in series.

(2) Have the following minimum liquid volumes:

(a) For a single family residence use Table VII, Required Minimum Liquid Volumes of Septic Tanks:

TABLE VII

**Required Minimum Liquid Volumes of Septic Tanks**

<b>Number of Bedrooms</b>	<b>Required Minimum Liquid Tank Volume in Gallons</b>
<b>≤4</b>	1,000
<b>Each additional bedroom</b>	250

(b) For OSS treating sewage from a residential source, other than one single-family residence, two hundred fifty gallons per bedroom with a minimum of one thousand gallons;

(c) For OSS treating sewage from a nonresidential source, three times the design flow.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0232, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**NEW SECTION**

**WAC 246-292A-0233 Design requirements-Pump chamber sizing.**

(1) All pump chambers, except pump basins, must be designed to meet the following requirements:

(a) Have a minimum volume of one thousand gallons;

(b) Provide an internal volume to account for the design flow, full time pump submergence, space for sludge accumulation below the pump inlet and emergency storage volume of at least seventy-five percent of the design flow; and

(c) Follow the applicable DS&G or proprietary product design manual for any particular OSS component.

(2) For the purposes of subsection 1 of this section, pump basin means a watertight receptacle that contains a pump to convey sewage from a limited use area that is separate from the main wastewater sewer pipe leaving a structure, to the main treatment component of an onsite sewage system; typically much smaller than a pump chamber and separate from the main sewer pipe due to elevation restrictions. Pump basins are intended for limited, specialized uses, and not intended as a replacement or substitute for a pump chamber.

**WAC 246-272A-0234 Design requirements—Soil dispersal components.** (1) All soil dispersal components, except one using a subsurface dripline product, shall be designed to meet the following requirements:

(a) Maximum hydraulic loading rates shall be based on the rates described in Table VIII;

**TABLE VIII**

**Maximum Hydraulic Loading Rate**

<b>Soil Type</b>	<b>Soil Textural Classification Description</b>	<b>Column A Loading Rate for Residential Septic Tank Effluent Using Gravity or Pressure Distribution gal./sq. ft./day</b>	<b>Column B Loading Rate for Residential Effluent Meeting Treatment Level C &amp; DL3 or Higher Effluent Quality Using Gravity or Pressure Distribution gal./sq. ft./day</b>
<b>1</b>	Gravelly and very gravelly coarse sands, all extremely gravelly soils excluding those with soil types 5 & 6 as the non-gravel portion, and all soil types with greater than or equal to 90% rock fragments.	1.0	1.2
<b>2</b>	Coarse sands.	1.0	1.2
<b>3</b>	Medium sands, loamy coarse sands, loamy medium sands.	0.8	1.0
<b>4</b>	Fine sands, loamy fine sands, sandy loams, loams.	0.6	0.8
<b>5</b>	Very fine sands, loamy very fine sands; or silt loams, sandy clay loams, clay loams and silty clay loams with a moderate structure or strong structure (excluding a platy structure).	0.4	0.6

		<b>Column A</b>	<b>Column B</b>
<b>Soil Type</b>	<b>Soil Textural Classification Description</b>	<b>Loading Rate for Residential Septic Tank Effluent Using Gravity or Pressure Distribution gal./sq. ft./day</b>	<b>Loading Rate for Residential Effluent Meeting Treatment Level C &amp; DL3 or Higher Effluent Quality Using Gravity or Pressure Distribution gal./sq. ft./day</b>
<b>6</b>	Other silt loams, sandy clay loams, clay loams, silty clay loams.	0.2	0.2
<b>7</b>	Sandy clay, clay, silty clay and strongly cemented firm soils, soil with a moderate or strong platy structure, any soil with a massive structure, any soil with appreciable amounts of expanding clays.	Not suitable	Not suitable

(b) Calculation of the absorption area is based on:

(i) The design flow in WAC 246-272A-0230(2); and

(ii) Loading rates equal to or less than those in Table

VIII applied to the infiltrative surface of the soil dispersal component or the finest textured soil within the vertical separation selected by the designer, whichever has the finest texture.

(c) Requirements for the method of distribution shall correspond to those in Table VI.

(d) Soil dispersal components having daily design flow between one thousand and three thousand five hundred gallons of sewage per day shall:

(i) Only be located in soil types 1-5;

(ii) Only be located on slopes of less than thirty percent, or seventeen degrees; and

(iii) Have pressure distribution including time dosing.

(2) All soil dispersal components using a subsurface dripline product must be designed to meet the following requirements:

(a) Calculation of the absorption area is based on:

(i) The design flow in WAC 246-272A-0230(2);

(ii) Loading rates that are dependent on the soil type, other soil and site characteristics, and the spacing of dripline and emitters;

(b) The dripline must be installed a minimum of six inches into original, undisturbed soil;

(c) Timed dosing; and

(d) Soil dispersal components having daily design flows greater than one thousand gallons of sewage per day may:

(i) Only be located in soil types 1-5;

(ii) Only be located on slopes of less than thirty percent, or seventeen degrees.

(3) All SSAS shall meet the following requirements:

(a) The infiltrative surface may not be deeper than three feet below the finished grade, except under special conditions approved by the local health officer. The depth of such system shall not exceed ten feet from the finished grade;

(b) A minimum of six inches of sidewall must be located in suitable, original, undisturbed, unsaturated soil;

(c) Beds are only designed in soil types 1, 2, 3 or in fine sands with a width not exceeding ten feet;

(d) Individual laterals greater than one hundred feet in length must use pressure distribution;

(e) A layer of between six and twenty-four inches of cover material; and

(f) Other features shall conform with the "*On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems Manual*," United States

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(available upon request to the department) except where modified by, or in conflict with this section or local regulations.

(4) For SSAS with drainrock and distribution pipe:

(a) A minimum of two inches of drainrock is required above the distribution pipe;

(b) The sidewall below the invert of the distribution pipe is located in original undisturbed soil.

(5) The local health officer may allow the infiltrative surface area in a SSAS to include six inches of the SSAS sidewall height when meeting the required absorption area where total recharge by annual precipitation and irrigation is less than twelve inches per year.

(6) The local health officer may permit systems consisting solely of a septic tank and a gravity SSAS in soil type 1 if all the following criteria are met:

(a) The system serves a single-family residence;

(b) The lot size is a minimum of two and one-half acres;

(c) Annual precipitation in the region is less than twenty-five inches per year as described by "*Washington Climate*" published jointly by the Cooperative Extension Service, College

of Agriculture, and Washington State University (available for inspection at Washington state libraries);

(d) The system is located outside the twelve counties bordering Puget Sound; and

(e) The geologic conditions beneath the dispersal component must satisfy the minimum unsaturated depth requirements to groundwater as determined by the local health officer. The method for determination is described by "*Design Guideline for Gravity Systems in Soil Type 1*" (available upon request to the department).

(7) The local health officer may allow the loading rates in Table VIII. Loading rates identified in Column B of Table VIII shall not be combined with any dispersal component size reductions.

(8) Both primary and reserve areas shall be sized at one hundred percent of the approved loading rate. The local health officer may require the sizing of the reserve area using the loading rate in Column A when sizing the primary area using Column B.

**WAC 246-272A-0238 Design requirements-Facilitate**

**operation, monitoring and maintenance.** (1) The OSS must be designed to facilitate routine operation, monitoring and maintenance according to the following criteria:

(a) For gravity systems, septic tank access for maintenance and inspection at finished grade is required. If effluent filters are used, access to the filter at finished grade is required. The local health officer may allow access for maintenance and inspection of a system consisting of a septic tank and gravity flow SSAS to be a maximum of six inches below finished grade provided a marker showing the location of the tank access is installed at finished grade.

(b) For all other systems, service access and monitoring ports at finished grade are required for all system components. Specific component requirements include:

(i) Septic tanks must have service access manholes and monitoring ports for the inlet and outlet. If effluent filters are used, access to the filter at finished grade is required;

(ii) Surge, flow equalization or other sewage tanks must have service access manholes;

(iii) Other pretreatment units (such as aerobic treatment units and packed-bed filters) must have service access manholes and monitoring ports;

(iv) Pump chambers, tanks and vaults must have service access manholes;

(v) Disinfection units must have service access and be installed to facilitate complete maintenance and cleaning; and

(vi) Soil dispersal components shall have monitoring ports for both distribution devices and the infiltrative surface.

(c) For systems using pumps, clearly accessible controls and warning devices are required including:

(i) Process controls such as float and pressure activated pump on/off switches, pump-run timers and process flow controls;

(ii) Diagnostic tools including dose cycle counters and hour meters on the sewage stream, or flow meters on either the water supply or sewage stream; and

(iii) Audible and visual alarms designed to alert a resident of a malfunction. The alarm must be placed on a circuit independent of the pump circuit.

(2) All accesses must be designed to allow for routine monitoring and maintenance and shall be secured to minimize injury or unauthorized access in a manner approved by the local health officer.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0238, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**WAC 246-272A-0240 Holding tank sewage systems.** (1) A person may not install or use holding tank sewage systems for residential development or expansion of residences, whether seasonal or year-round, except as set forth under subsection (2) of this section.

(2) The local health officer may approve installation of holding tank sewage systems only:

(a) For permanent uses limited to controlled, part-time, commercial usage situations, such as recreational vehicle parks and trailer dump stations;

(b) For interim uses limited to handling of emergency situations; or

(c) For repairs as permitted under WAC 246-272A-0280

(1) (c) (i).

(3) A person proposing to use a holding tank sewage system shall:

(a) Follow design criteria established by the department;

(b) Submit a management program to the local health officer assuring ongoing operation, monitoring and maintenance before the local health officer issues the installation permit; and

(c) Use a holding tank reviewed and approved by the department.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0240, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**WAC 246-272A-0250 Installation.** (1) Only installers may construct OSS, except as noted under subsection (2) of this section.

(2) The local health officer may allow the resident owner of a single-family residence not within two hundred feet of a marine shoreline to install the OSS for that single-family residence.

(3) The installer described by either subsection (1) or (2) of this section shall:

(a) Follow the approved design;

(b) Have the approved design in possession during installation;

(c) Make no changes to the approved design without the prior authorization of the designer and the local health officer;

(d) Only install septic tanks, pump chambers, and holding tanks approved by the department;

(e) Be on the site at all times during the excavation and construction of the OSS;

(f) Install the OSS to be watertight, except for the soil dispersal component;

(g) Cover the installation only after the local health officer has given approval to cover; and

(h) Back fill with six to twenty-four inches of cover material and grade the site to prevent surface water from accumulating over any component of the OSS.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0250, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**WAC 246-272A-0260 Inspection.** (1) For all activities requiring a permit, the local health officer shall:

(a) Visit the OSS site during the site evaluation, construction, or final construction inspection;

(b) Either inspect the OSS before cover or allow the designer of the OSS to perform the inspection before cover if the designer is not also named as installer of the system; and

(c) Keep the record drawings on file, with the approved design documents.

(2) Prior to any inspection, the local health officer or certified professional inspector shall coordinate and obtain authorization from the OSS owner. In cases when an OSS owner did not authorize access, the local health officer is allowed to follow the administrative search warrant procedures in RCW 70.118.030.

(3) For any OSS located on a single property serving one dwelling unit on the same property, the local health officer shall not require a property owner to grant inspection and maintenance easements as a condition of permit issuance.

(4) During the final construction inspection, the local health officer or the designer of the OSS must confirm the OSS meets the approved design.

(5) A routine evaluation that satisfies the OSS owner's responsibility as required in WAC 246-272A-0270(1)(e) or property transfer inspection as required in WAC 246-272A-0270(1)(k) shall, at a minimum:

(a) Inspect and evaluate the status of all sewage tanks including baffles, tank contents (water level, scum, sludge, and solids), water tightness, venting, and general structural condition;

(b) Inspect and evaluate the status of all lids, accesses, and risers;

(c) Inspect and evaluate the OSS and reserve area for any indicators of system failure or conditions that may impact system function, operation or repair;

(d) Inspect and evaluate any other components (such as distribution boxes) that are accessible;

(e) Review the record drawing and related documents, if they exist, including previous reports to ensure the system is operating as designed; and

(f) Include an evaluation of any proprietary products following the procedures in the O&M section of the accepted

operations manual (or equivalent document) associated with those products.

(6) Evidence of a routine evaluation as required in WAC 246-272A-0270(1)(e) or property transfer inspection as required in WAC 246-272A-0270(1)(k) shall be documented in a report, including at a minimum:

- (a) All applicable information from subsection (5) of this section;
- (b) The address of the property served by the OSS;
- (c) The date of the inspection;
- (d) The permitted type and design flow for known OSS; and
- (e) Verification that the record drawing is accurate, if it exists, or provide an OSS site plan showing the location of all system components relative to structures and prominent site features.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0260, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**WAC 246-272A-0265 Record drawings.** Upon completion of the new construction, alteration or repair of the OSS, a complete and detailed record drawing shall be submitted to both the

health officer and the OSS owner that includes at a minimum the following:

(1) Measurements and directions accurate to +/- 1/2 foot, unless otherwise determined by the local health officer, to ensure the following parts of the OSS can be easily located:

(a) All sewage tank openings requiring access;

(b) The ends, and all changes in direction, of installed and found buried pipes and electrical cables that are part of the OSS; and

(c) Any other OSS component which, in the judgment of the health officer or the designer, must be accessed for observation, maintenance, or operation;

(2) Location and dimensions of reserve area;

(3) Record that materials and equipment meet the specifications contained in the design;

(4) Initial settings of electrical or mechanical devices that must be known to operate the system in the manner intended by the designer or installer; and

(5) For proprietary products, manufacturer's standard product literature, including performance specifications and

maintenance recommendations needed for operation, monitoring, maintenance or repair of the OSS.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0265, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**WAC 246-272A-0270 Operation, monitoring, and maintenance—  
Owner responsibilities.** (1) The OSS owner is responsible for operating, monitoring, and maintaining the OSS to minimize the risk of failure, and to accomplish this purpose, shall:

(a) Request assistance from the local health officer upon occurrence of a system failure or suspected system failure;

(b) Obtain approval from the local health officer before:

(i) Repairing, altering or expanding an OSS as required by WAC 246-272A-0200; or

(ii) Beginning use of any newly constructed OSS;

(c) Secure and renew contracts for periodic maintenance if required by the local health jurisdiction;

(d) Obtain and renew operation permits if required by the local health jurisdiction;

(e) Obtain an inspection, as required in WAC 246-272A-0260, by an inspector authorized the local health officer, of all OSS

components and property to determine functionality, maintenance needs and compliance with regulations and any permits:

(i) At least once every three years for all OSS consisting solely of a septic tank and gravity SSAS;

(ii) Annually for all other systems unless more frequent inspections are specified by the local health officer;

(f) Employ an approved pumper to remove the septage from the tank when the level of solids and scum indicates that removal is necessary;

(g) Provide maintenance and needed repairs to promptly return the system to a proper operating condition;

(h) Protect the OSS area and the reserve area from:

(i) Cover by structures or impervious material;

(ii) Surface drainage, and direct drains, such as footing or roof drains. The drainage must be directed away from the area where the OSS is located;

(iii) Soil compaction, for example by vehicular traffic or livestock; and

(iv) Damage by soil removal and grade alteration;

(i) Keep the flow of sewage to the OSS at or below the approved operating capacity and sewage quality;

(j) Operate and maintain systems as directed by the local health officer;

and

(k) At the time of property transfer:

(i) Provide to the buyer, all available maintenance and repair records, in addition to the completed seller disclosure statement in accordance with chapter 64.06 RCW for residential real property transfers;

(ii) Obtain an inspection, as required in WAC 246-272A-0260, by an inspector authorized by the local health officer. The local health officer may verify the results of the property inspection for compliance with WAC 246-272A-0260. The local health officer may waive the requirement for a property transfer inspection if the OSS is in compliance with the inspection requirements of this section; and

(iii) Obtain an inspection, as required in WAC 246-272A-0260, of proprietary treatment products by an inspector approved by the local health officer per the product manufacturer

recommendations. The local health officer may waive the requirement for a property transfer inspection if the OSS is in compliance with the inspection requirements of this section.

(2) Persons shall not:

(a) Use or introduce strong bases, acids or chlorinated organic solvents into an OSS for the purpose of system cleaning;

(b) Use a sewage system additive unless it is specifically approved by the department;

(c) Use an OSS to dispose of waste components atypical of sewage from a residential source; or

(d) Use any remediation process or activity unless approved by the local health officer.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0270, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**WAC 246-272A-0275 Operation, monitoring, and maintenance-**

**Food service establishments.** The local health officer shall require annual inspections of OSS serving food service establishments and may require pumping as needed.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0275, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**WAC 246-272A-0278 Remediation.** (1) The local health

officer:

(a) Shall establish a remediation policy; and

(b) May establish programs and requirements for approving and reviewing remediation activities.

(2) Remediation must not:

(a) Result in damage to the OSS;

(b) Result in insufficient soil treatment in the zone between the soil dispersal component and the highest seasonal water table, restrictive layer, or soil type 7; or

(c) Disturb the soil in or below the dispersal component if the vertical separation requirements of WAC 246-272A-0230 are not met.

(3) The department will maintain a DS&G for remediation.

**WAC 246-272A-0280 Repairs of malfunctions and failures.**

(1) When an OSS failure or malfunction occurs, the OSS owner shall either:

(a) Remediate the OSS in conformance with WAC 246-272A-0278; or

(b) Repair or replace the OSS with a conforming OSS or component in full compliance with new construction requirements under this chapter, or an OSS meeting the requirements of WAC 246-272A-0280(6) either on the:

(i) Property served; or

(ii) Nearby property if easements or restrictive covenants are obtained; or

(c) Connect the residence or facility to a:

(i) Publicly owned LOSS;

(ii) Privately owned LOSS where it is deemed economically feasible; or

(iii) Public sewer; or

(d) Perform one of the following when the requirements in

(a), (b), or (c) of this subsection are not feasible:

(i) Use a holding tank; or

(ii) Obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System or state discharge permit from the Washington state department of ecology issued to a public entity or jointly to a public entity and the OSS owner only when the local health officer determines:

(A) An OSS is not feasible; and

(B) The only realistic method of final dispersal of treated effluent is discharge to the surface of the land or into surface water; or

(iii) Discontinue use of the OSS and cease all sewage generating activities on the property.

(2) The local health officer shall:

(a) Give first priority to allow the repair and second priority to allow the replacement of an existing permitted OSS, consisting solely of a septic tank and drainfield, with a similar OSS consisting solely of a septic tank and drainfield, if the repair or replacement will result in a conforming system in full compliance with new construction requirements under this chapter; and

(b) Allow repairs using the least expensive alternative that will result in a conforming system in full compliance with new construction requirements under this chapter.

(3) Upon discovering an unpermitted sewage discharge the local health officer shall:

(a) Notify the owner of the property and order an immediate stop to the unpermitted discharge;

(b) Require the owner to develop and submit an application as required under WAC 246-272A-0200;

(c) Require the installation of a conforming OSS in full compliance with new construction requirements under this chapter;

(d) Not permit the installation of an OSS meeting the requirements of Table IX; and

(e) Notify the department's shellfish program, if adjacent to marine waters.

(4) Prior to repairing the soil dispersal component, the OSS owner shall develop and submit information required under WAC 246-272A-0200.

(5) The local health officer shall permit an OSS that meets the requirements of Table IX only if the following are not feasible:

(a) Installation of a conforming OSS or component; and

(b) Connection to either an approved LOSS or a public sewer.

(6) The person responsible for the design shall locate and design repairs to:

(a) Meet the requirements of Table IX if the effluent treatment and soil dispersal component to be repaired or replaced is closer to any surface water, well, or spring than prescribed by the minimum separation required in Table IV of WAC 246-272A-0210(1). Pressure distribution with timed dosing in the soil dispersal component is required in all cases where a conforming OSS is not feasible.

**TABLE IX**

**Treatment Component Performance Levels for Repair of OSS Not Meeting**

**Vertical and Horizontal Separations<sup>1</sup>**

Vertical Separation (in inches)	Horizontal Separation <sup>2</sup>											
	< 30 feet			≥ 30 < 50 feet			≥50 < 100 feet <sup>3</sup>			≥100 feet		
	Soil Type			Soil Type			Soil Type			Soil Type		
	1	2	3-6	1	2	3-6	1	2	3-6	1	2	3-6
< 12	A & DL1	A & DL1	A & DL1	A & DL1	A & DL1	A & DL1	A & DL1	A & DL1	B & DL2	B & DL2	B & DL2	B & DL2
≥ 12 < 18	A & DL1	A & DL1	A & DL1	A & DL1	B & DL2	B & DL2	A & DL1	B & DL2	B & DL2	Conforming  OSS		
≥ 18 < 24	A & DL1	A & DL1	A & DL1	A & DL1	B & DL2	B & DL2	A & DL1	B & DL2	B & DL2			
≥ 24 < 36	A & DL1	B & DL2	B & DL2	B & DL2	B & DL2	B & DL2	B & DL2	B & DL2	C & DL3			
≥ 36	A & DL1	B & DL2	B & DL2	B & DL2	C & DL3	C & DL3	B & DL2	C & DL3	C & DL3			

<sup>1</sup>The treatment component performance levels correspond with those established for treatment components under the product performance testing requirements in Table III of WAC 246-272A-0110.

<sup>2</sup>The horizontal separation indicated in Table IX is the distance between the soil dispersal component and the surface water, well, or spring. If the soil dispersal component is up-gradient of a surface water, well, or spring to be used as a potable water source, or beach where shellfish are harvested, the next higher treatment level shall apply unless treatment level A is already required.

<sup>3</sup>On a site where there is a horizontal setback of 75 - 100 feet between an OSS dispersal component and an individual water well, individual spring, nonmarine surface water or surface water that is not a public water source and a vertical separation of greater than twelve inches, a conforming OSS that complies with WAC 246-272A-0210(4) shall be installed if feasible.

(b) Protect drinking water sources and shellfish harvesting areas;

(c) Minimize nitrogen discharge in areas where nitrogen has been identified as a contaminant of concern in the local plan under WAC 246-272A-0015;

(d) Minimize phosphorus discharge in areas where phosphorus has been identified as a contaminant of concern in the local plan under WAC 246-272A-0015;

(e) Prevent the direct discharge of sewage or treated effluent to groundwater, surface water, or upon the surface of the ground;

(f) Meet the horizontal separations under WAC 246-272A-0210(1) to public drinking water sources;

(g) Meet other requirements of this chapter to the maximum extent permitted by the site; and

(h) Maximize the:

(i) Vertical separation;

(ii) Distance from a well or spring; and

(iii) Distance to surface water.

(7) Prior to designing the repair OSS, the designer shall consider the contributing factors of the failure to enable the repair to address identified causes.

(8) If the vertical separation is less than twelve inches, the local health officer may permit ASTM C-33 sand or coarser to be used as fill to prevent direct discharge of treated effluent to groundwater, surface water, or upon the surface of the ground.

(9) For a repair using the requirements of Table IX, disinfection may not be used to achieve the fecal coliform requirements to meet:

(a) Treatment levels DL1 or DL2 where there is less than eighteen inches of vertical separation;

(b) Treatment levels DL1 or DL2 in type 1 soils; or

(c) Treatment level DL3 .

(10) The local health officer shall identify repair permits meeting the requirements of Table IX for the purpose of tracking future performance.

(11) An OSS owner receiving a repair permit for an OSS meeting the requirements of Table IX from the local health officer shall:

(a) Immediately report any failure to the local health officer;

(b) Comply with all local and state requirements stipulated on the permit.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0280, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**WAC 246-272A-0290 Expansions.** (1) The local health officer shall require an OSS and a reserve area in full compliance with the new system construction standards specified in this chapter for an expansion of a residence or other facility.

(2) A local health officer may allow expansion of an existing OSS within two hundred feet of a marine shoreline that does not meet the minimum horizontal separation between the soil dispersal component and the ordinary high-water mark required by WAC 246-272A-0210, Table IV, provided that:

(a) The system meets all requirements of WAC 246-272A-0230, 246-272A-0232, 246-272A-0234, and 246-272A-0238;

(b) The system complies with all other requirements of WAC 246-272A-0210 and this section;

(c) Horizontal separation between the soil dispersal component and the ordinary high-water mark is fifty feet or greater; and

(d) Vertical separation is two feet or greater.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0290, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**WAC 246-272A-0300 Abandonment.** (1) Persons permanently abandoning a septic tank, seepage pit, cesspool, or other sewage container shall:

(a) Have the septage removed by an approved pumper; and

(b) Perform one of the following:

(i) Remove sewage tanks and other components and dispose of in a manner approved by the local health officer; or

(ii) Leave the sewage tanks and components in place. Remove or destroy the lid if possible and fill the void with soil or gravel; and

(c) Grade the site to the surroundings.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0300, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**WAC 246-272A-0310 Septage management.** (1) The local health officer shall approve an individual before they may remove septage from an OSS.

(2) Persons removing septage from an OSS shall:

(a) Transport septage or sewage only in vehicles clearly identified with the name of the business and approved by the local health officer;

(b) Record and report septage removal as required by the local health officer; and

(c) Dispose of septage, or apply septage biosolids to land only in a manner consistent with applicable laws.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0310, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**WAC 246-272A-0320 Developments, subdivisions, and minimum land area requirements.** (1) A person proposing a subdivision where the use of OSS is planned shall obtain a recommendation for approval from the local health officer as required by RCW 58.17.150.

(2) The local health officer shall require the following prior to approving any development:

(a) Site evaluations as required under WAC 246-272A-0220, excluding subsections (3) (a) (i) and (4) (d);

(b) Information consisting of field data, plans, and reports supporting a conclusion the proposed land area is sufficient to:

(i) Install conforming OSS;

(ii) Preserve reserve areas for proposed and existing OSS;

(iii) Properly treat and dispose of the sewage; and

(iv) Minimize public health effects from the accumulation of contaminants in surface and ground water.

(c) Subdivisions with non-public wells to have a one hundred foot water supply protection zone for each existing or proposed well site unless:

(i) The local health officer allows a smaller water supply protection zone based on technical justification submitted by a licensed hydrogeologist or engineer to the local health officer that supports a smaller area. The justification must address geological and hydrogeological data, well construction details,

and other relevant factors necessary to provide an adequate water supply protection zone; or

(ii) The local health officer requires a larger water supply protection zone if geological and hydrological data support such a decision;

(A) The water supply protection zone must be located:

(I) Entirely within the boundaries of a single lot; or

(II) On more than one lot as long as the person proposing the subdivision or development provides a copy of a recorded restrictive covenant to each property that is sited partially or completely within the water supply protection zone.

(d) Where preliminary approval of a subdivision is requested, provision of at least one soil log per proposed lot, unless the local health officer determines existing soils information allows fewer soil logs;

(e) Determination of the minimum lot size or minimum land area required for the development using Table X, or the alternative methodology in subsection (5) of this section.

(4) Table X shows the minimum lot size required per single-family residence. For developments other than single-family residences, the minimum land areas shown are required for each unit volume of sewage. However, the local health officer may require larger lot sizes where the local health officer has identified either nitrogen or phosphorus as a contaminant of concern either through planning activities described in WAC 246-272A-0015 or another process.

**TABLE X**

**Minimum Land Area Requirement For Each**

**Single-Family Residence or Unit Volume of Sewage**

Type of Water Supply	Soil Type (defined by WAC 246-272A-0220)					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Public</b>	22,000 sq. ft.	13,000 sq. ft.	16,000 sq. ft.	19,000 sq. ft.	21,000 sq. ft.	23,000 sq. ft.
	2.5 acres <sup>1</sup>					
<b>Non-public, on each lot</b>	1.0 acre	1.0 acre	1.0 acre	1.0 acre	2.0 acres	2.0 acres
	2.5 acres <sup>1</sup>					
<b>Minimum Usable Land Area</b>	2,000 sq. ft.	2,000 sq. ft.	2,500 sq. ft.	3,333 sq. ft.	5,000 sq. ft.	10,000 sq. ft.

<sup>1</sup> OSS consisting solely of a septic tank and gravity SSAS must have a minimum land area of 2.5 acres per WAC 246-272A-0234(6).

(5) The local health officer shall require all proposals that do not meet the minimum land area requirements in Table X to demonstrate that the proposed development:

(a) Will minimize impacts to public health or surface water or groundwater quality;

(b) Has given appropriate consideration to:

(i) Topography, geology, and ground cover;

(ii) Climatic conditions;

(iii) Availability of public sewers; and

(iv) Present and anticipated land use and growth patterns;

and

(c) Will be in compliance with current planning and zoning requirements; and

(d) Will not exceed the nitrogen limit per land area as identified in Table XI.

**Table XI**

**Maximum Allowable Total Nitrogen (TN) Load**

**Per Day by Type of Water Supply, Soil Type, and Land Area<sup>1</sup>**

Water Supply Type	Maximum Daily TN Load	Soil Type <sup>2</sup>					
		1	2	3	4	5	6

<b>Public</b>	<b>mg per sq. ft.</b>	3.7	6.3	5.1	4.3	3.9	3.6
	<b>lb per acre</b>	0.36	0.60	0.49	0.41	0.37	0.34
<b>Non-public on each lot</b>	<b>mg per sq. ft.</b>	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.9	0.9
	<b>lb per acre</b>	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.09	0.09

<sup>1</sup> Based on 60 mg/L TN and 360 gal/day OSS effluent.

<sup>2</sup> As defined in Table V, WAC 246-272A-0220

(6) The department shall develop guidelines for the application of the alternative method in subsection 5 of this section by the effective date of the rule.

(7) The local health officer shall require lot areas of thirteen thousand square feet or larger except when a person proposes:

(a) OSS within the boundaries of a recognized sewer utility having a finalized assessment roll; or

(b) A planned unit development with a signed, notarized, and recorded deed covenant restricting any development of lots or parcels above the approved density with the overall density meeting the minimum land area requirements of subsection (4) or (5) of this section lasting until the OSS is no longer needed as noted in WAC 246-272A-0200(6).

(8) The local health officer may:

(a) Require detailed plot plans and OSS designs prior to final approval of subdivision proposals;

(b) Require larger land areas or lot sizes to achieve public health protection;

(c) Prohibit development on individual lots within the boundaries of an approved subdivision if the proposed OSS design does not protect public health by meeting requirements of these regulations; and

(d) Permit the installation of an OSS, where the minimum land area requirements or lot sizes cannot be met, only when all of the following criteria are met:

(i) The lot is registered as a legal lot of record created prior to the effective date of this chapter;

(ii) The lot is outside an area identified by the local plan developed under WAC 246-272A-0015 where minimum land area has been listed as a design parameter necessary for public health protection; and

(iii) The proposed OSS meets all requirements of these regulations, other than minimum land area, without the use of waivers from this chapter.

(9) The use of a reduced-sized dispersal component does not provide for a reduction in the minimum land area requirements established in this section. Site development incorporating reduced-sized dispersal component must meet the minimum land area requirements established in state and local codes.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0320, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**WAC 246-272A-0340 Certification of installers, pumpers, and maintenance service providers.** (1) OSS installers, pumpers, and maintenance service providers must obtain approval from the local health officer prior to providing services within a local health jurisdiction.

(2) The local health officer shall establish approval procedures for OSS installers, pumpers, and maintenance service providers. They may also accept proof of competency through a

third party certification program, or accept reciprocity of approval through other Washington local health jurisdictions.

(3) The local health officer may establish a certification process for homeowners to inspect their OSS.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0340, filed 7/18/05, effective 7/1/07.]

**WAC 246-272A-0400 Technical advisory group.** (1) The department shall:

(a) Maintain a technical advisory group (TAG) to advise the department regarding:

(i) OSS design and siting;

(ii) Public domain technologies and DS&G for their use;

and

(iii) Testing and design standards used for proprietary product registration and DS&G for use of proprietary products.

(b) Select members for the TAG for three-year terms with technical or scientific knowledge applicable to OSS from agencies, professions, and organizations including entities such as:

(i) Local health departments;

- (ii) Engineering firms;
  - (iii) The department of ecology;
  - (iv) Land sales, development and building industries;
  - (v) Public sewer utilities;
  - (vi) OSS:
    - (A) Designers;
    - (B) Installers;
    - (C) Maintenance providers;
    - (D) Product manufacturers;
  - (vii) Environmental organizations;
  - (viii) University/college academic communities;
  - (ix) Certified Professional Soil Scientists; and
  - (x) Other interested organizations or groups.
- (c) Convene meetings as needed.
- (d) Assign a departmental staff person from the wastewater

management program to give oversight to the TAG and publish meeting notes.

(2) At the department's discretion the TAG may be merged with the policy advisory group established in WAC 247-272A-0410.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0400, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

**WAC 246-272A-0410 Policy advisory group .** (1) The

department shall:

(a) Maintain a policy advisory group to:

(i) Make recommendations concerning OSS departmental policy and regulations;

(ii) Review OSS program services; and

(iii) Provide input to the department regarding the OSS program;

(b) Select members for three-year terms from agencies, professions, organizations having knowledge and interest in OSS, and groups which are affected by the regulations; and

(c) Convene meetings as needed.

(d) Assign a departmental staff person from the wastewater management program to give oversight to the policy advisory group and publish meeting notes.

(2) At the department's discretion the policy advisory group may be merged with the TAG.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0410, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

**WAC 246-272A-0420 Waiver of state regulations.** (1) The

local health officer may grant a waiver from specific requirements of this chapter if:

(a) The waiver request is evaluated by the local health officer on an individual, site-by-site basis;

(b) The local health officer determines that the waiver is consistent with the standards in, and the intent of, these rules;

(c) The local health officer submits quarterly reports to the department regarding any waivers approved or denied; and

(d) Based on review of the quarterly reports, if the department finds that the waivers previously granted have not been consistent with the standards in, and the intent of these rules, and associated guidance issued by the department, then the department shall provide technical assistance to the local health officer to correct the inconsistency, and may notify the local and state boards of health of the department's concerns. If upon further review of the quarterly reports, the department finds that the inconsistency between the waivers granted and the state board of health standards has not been corrected, the

department may suspend the authority of the local health officer to grant waivers under this section until such inconsistencies have been corrected.

(2) The department shall maintain and update guidance to assist local health officers in the application of waivers.

(3) The department shall publish an annual report summarizing the waivers issued over the previous year.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0420, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

**WAC 246-272A-0425 Required rule review.** The department shall review this chapter to evaluate the effectiveness of the rules and determine areas where revisions may be necessary. The department will provide the results of their review along with their recommendations to the state board of health and all local health officers by September 2024 and every four years thereafter.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0425, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

**WAC 246-272A-0430 Enforcement.** (1) The department or the local health officer:

(a) Shall enforce the rules of chapter 246-272A WAC; or

(b) May refer cases within their jurisdiction to the local prosecutor's office or office of the attorney general, as appropriate.

(2) When a person violates the provisions under this chapter, the department, local health officer, local prosecutor's office, or office of the attorney general may initiate enforcement or disciplinary actions, or any other legal proceeding authorized by law including, but not limited to, any one or a combination of the following:

(a) Informal administrative conferences, convened at the request of the department or owner, to explore facts and resolve problems;

(b) Orders directed to the owner and/or operator of the OSS and/or person causing or responsible for the violation of the rules of chapter 246-272A WAC;

(c) Denial, suspension, modification, or revocation of permits, approvals, registrations, or certification;

(d) The penalties under chapter 70.05 RCW and RCW 43.70.190; and

(e) Civil or criminal action.

(3) Orders authorized under this section include the following:

(a) Orders requiring corrective measures necessary to effect compliance with chapter 246-272A WAC which may include a compliance schedule; and

(b) Orders to stop work and/or refrain from using any OSS or portion of the OSS or improvements to the OSS until all permits, certifications, and approvals required by rule or statute are obtained.

(4) Enforcement orders issued under this section shall:

(a) Be in writing;

(b) Name the person or persons to whom the order is directed;

(c) Briefly describe each action or inaction constituting a violation of the rules of chapter 246-272A WAC, or applicable local code;

(d) Specify any required corrective action, if applicable;

(e) Specify the effective date of the order, with time or times of compliance;

(f) Provide notice of the consequences of failure to comply or repeated violation, as appropriate. Such notices may include a statement that continued or repeated violation may subject the violator to:

(i) Denial, suspension, or revocation of a permit approval, or certification;

(ii) Referral to the office of the county prosecutor or attorney general; and/or

(iii) Other appropriate remedies.

(g) Provide the name, business address, and phone number of an appropriate staff person who may be contacted regarding an order.

(5) Enforcement orders shall be personally served in the manner of service of a summons in a civil action or in a manner showing proof of receipt.

(6) The department shall have cause to deny the application or reapplication for an operational permit or to revoke, suspend, or modify a required operational permit of any person who has:

(a) Failed or refused to comply with the provisions of chapter 246-272A WAC, or any other statutory provision or rule regulating the operation of an OSS; or

(b) Obtained or attempted to obtain a permit or any other required certificate or approval by misrepresentation.

(7) For the purposes of subsection (6) of this section and WAC 246-272A-0440, a person is defined to include:

(a) Applicant;

(b) Reapplicant;

(c) Permit holder; or

(d) Any individual associated with (a), (b) or (c) of this subsection including, but not limited to:

(i) Board members;

(ii) Officers;

(iii) Managers;

(iv) Partners;

(v) Association members;

(vi) Agents; and

(vii) Third persons acting with the knowledge of such persons.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0430, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

**WAC 246-272A-0440 Notice of decision-Adjudicative**

**proceeding.** (1) All local boards of health shall:

(a) Maintain an administrative appeals process to consider procedural and technical conflicts arising from the administration of local regulations; and

(b) Establish rules for conducting hearings requested to contest a local health officer's actions.

(2) The department shall provide notice of the department's denial, suspension, modification or revocation of a permit, certification, or approval consistent with RCW 43.70.115, chapter 34.05 RCW, and chapter 246-10 WAC.

(3) A person contesting a departmental decision regarding a permit, certificate, or approval may file a written request for an adjudicative proceeding consistent with chapter 246-10 WAC.

(4) Department actions are governed under the Administrative Procedure Act chapter 34.05 RCW, RCW 43.70.115, this chapter, and chapter 246-10 WAC.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0440, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]

**WAC 246-272A-0450 Severability.** If any provision of this chapter or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of this chapter, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.20.050. WSR 05-15-119, § 246-272A-0450, filed 7/18/05, effective 9/15/05.]